Daily Report

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LD041416 [Editorial Report]

Jordan, PLO on U.S. Policy

The recent U.S. veto at the Security Council was "neither positive nor constructive" and it may encourage Israel to continue its "inhuman practices" against the people of the occupied territories, Jordan's King Husayn stated in remarks broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo following talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. According to Amman television, Husayn also told journalists that U.S. envoy Philip Habib did not bring a new U.S. initiative during his recent visit to Jordan. Asserting that the Palestinian "uprising" against Israeli occupation has made the U.S. Administration reconsider Israel's policy of "fait accompli," Husayn said Habib came to convey the U.S. Administration's "anxiety" over current developments and its readiness to reinvigorate the peace process. Husayn had informed Habib of Jordan's support for "any international effort" that leads to the convocation of an international conference under UN aegis with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO. When the U.S. Administration puts forth its ideas, Jordan will judge their "seriousness and credibility," the king added.

The PLO Executive Committee also commented on U.S. policy in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, asserting that the coincidence of the Security Council veto and Habib's tour means that "any wagering on changing the U.S. position and separating it from the Israeli position will fail." Asserting that "such wagering" is "aligned with the Israeli plot" against the Palestinians, the statement condemned the "suspect U.S. moves" and urged Palestinians to be "more vigilant."

Israel

Political Developments—The United States has informed Israeli leaders that King Husayn is willing to accept autonomy as an interim arrangement while continuing to look for a permanent settlement, Jerusalem radio indicated in a 4 February report. The information on Husayn's position was conveyed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by the U.S. ambassador. Although the radio said the Israelis gained the impression that Husayn is willing to forgo his demand for an international opening to the process, Peres subsequently stressed that Jordan is still unwilling to negotiate with Israel without an international opening, according to IDF radio.

Shamir had earlier emphasized that Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan will become "stronger" and that new settlements will be added this year, Jerusalem television noted.

Disturbances—An Arab youth died after being shot during the dispersal of a demonstration in Tulkarm 3 February, IDF radio disclosed. The youth had reportedly tried to attack an IDF officer. Three other people were wounded when the IDF dispersed villagers in the Samaria village of Burqa', Jerusalem radio noted. The radio also announced that all educational institutions in Judaea and Samaria will be closed until further notice.

As for the Gaza Strip, the head of the IDF's Southern Command told Jerusalem radio that the "relative calm" in the area is "superficial," and he confirmed that the IDF is prepared for the possible use of weapons by residents. The IDF's response to the use of weapons or to acts of terror will be "clear and unequivocal," he warned.

Iraqi-Syrian Relations

Reacting to a Syrian official's statement on relations with Iraq, INA asserted that the statement "reaffirmed" the Syrian regime's "alliance with the Iranian regime against Iraq and pan-Arab security." A 4 February AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial cited by the agency described the "alliance" between Syria and Iran as "disgraceful," adding that it is pursued for "evil and aggressive" purposes.

In Damascus, the Voice of Iraq station resumed broadcasting by announcing that since the Iraqi regime has "escalated its campaigns and insults," the station had no choice but to return to the air in order to "confront it, refute its claims, and expose its allegations."

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force raided an Iranian surface-to-air missile battery and several artillery positions 4 February, according to a military spokesman's statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The previous day Iraqi aircraft struck a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, an earlier statement carried by the radio said.

An Iranian communique transmitted by IRNA reported the downing of an Iraqi helicopter on the northwestern front. An Iraqi military spokesman dismissed the claim as "sheer fabrication," according to INA.

Saudi-Soviet Relations

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official denied reports that his country has agreed to restore diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia in the near future, in a statement to the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD cited by WAM. The official stated that the resumption of relations "is up to the Saudi side," adding that the Soviets "do not have any objections" to such a move but "not in the very near future."

Lebanon

A Western diplomatic source in Beirut stated that the French agent assassinated 2 February had been investigating the murder of a French engineer in East Beirut last November, Beirut radio reported. The engineer also had links with French intelligence and had been in contact with former Lebanese Forces leader Elie Hubayqah, the radio said.

Egyptian-Moroccan Talks

Visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met with Moroccan King Hassan, Cairo radio reported 4 February. The talks focused on international and regional issues, particularly the Middle East and Palestinian issues and the Gulf war. The two leaders also established a joint committee to promote bilateral relations.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in a speech broadcast by Tunis radio, hailed the recent legislative elections, in which instructions were issued that the executive authority should remain "completely neutral" toward all candidates, as the first step toward democracy. While admitting that some "liberties" had taken place, the president stated that this should be no surprise as it will be a "difficult march" along the road leading to pluralism and "new traditions of behavior" among the parties. Ben Ali also stressed his government's restoration of regard for Islam as a "tolerant" religion, but warned against the "exploitation" of religion for political purposes.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated in a press conference that the air bridge established between Khartoum and Juba to transport troops and military supplies will also be used to transport food to the south, according to Omdurman radio. An SPLA statement carried by the clandestine SPLA radio termed the plan "blackmail," declared airspace in the region closed to all military and civilian traffic, and ordered its air defense units to bring down "any aircraft" violating this order. The statement appealed to international relief organizations to pressure the Khartoum government to dissociate the military airlift from the food airlift.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Editorial Weighs Prospects for Habib Effort

PM031719 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 88 p 9

[Editorial: "One Initiative After Another"]

[Text] There are many reasons why the United States is returning to the region (it never left) with a new move, whose details are still unknown, through Philip Habib, who is renowned for his initiatives and mediations from Lebanon to the Philippines, and for his knowledge of the region. What interests us in this new process is the U.S. eagerness to contain what is taking place in our occupied territories and to turn it in the direction of a peaceful settlement. That would certainly be a good and constructive step if our Palestinian people's rights and national hopes and aspirations, which the whole world should heed, were taken into consideration. If the aim, however, is to halt this sweeping revolution in our Arab homeland, which has unnerved the Israeli enemy, or to sidestep it, absorb it, or divert attention from it, then we firmly believe it will fail miserably. It would not meet the basic Arab demands and would be ignored by our angry Arab masses who have pledged to God and religion, with a clear conscience, that they will uproot the usurper from the land and restore the wounded dignity.

If Washington had suitable new ideas, then all the Arabs would welcome and commend them. They frequently did so in the past when they accepted all peace plans and solutions and even fought among themselves and were divided, reaching a dangerous point of wasted efforts, frustration, and chasing after world capitals. Then came this red revolution of white pilgrimage, day and night, to strengthen the Arab heartbeat and explode latent capabilities.

We doubt if the U.S. Administration, in its final year in the White House, can do anything unless the struggle continues, the stone throwing escalates, and the enemy is unsettled and besieged by these young bodies and hearts, full of faith in their God and their cause, indignation, and determination to regain their usurped territory.

All solutions must go back to the origin, and the origin is continuous struggle and pursuit of the enemy until right is triumphant.

Further on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Tunisia

LD031212 Kuwait KUNA in English 1146 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, Feb 3 (KUNA)—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi Thursday starts a two-day official visit to Tunisia to discuss bilateral relations with Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, daily "AL-AMAL", organ of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party, reported Wednesday.

Tunisian-Libyan relations were normalized last December 28, following a series of talks at the ministerial level, the latest of which was that of Premier Hedi Baccouche when he was social affair minister.

Tunisian-Libyan talks ended in an agreement on settling the rights of Tunisian workers who left Libya in the summer of 1985 as well as the rights of Tunisian businessmen.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's trip here was postponed several times, however, Baccouche has stated earlier that reasons of the postponement were not political.

Kuwaiti Minister at Arab League Meeting

LD022135 Kuwait KUNA in English 1529 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, Feb 2 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi arrived here today, heading his country's delegation to the 44th session of the Arab League's Economic and Social Council scheduled to open here Wednesday.

Participants will discuss the situation of the pan-Arab organizations, Arab joint action, evaluation of the League's specialized organizations and the experts' report on developing commerical exchange between the Arab states, in addition to a number of other issues.

The Kuwaiti official was received at the airport by the League's Assistant Secretary General 'Abd-al-Mohsen Zalzalah and the Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires 'Abdallah al-Masoud and other senior officials.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Fatah Council Discuss West Bank, Gaza

LD031837 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Commander in Chief Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, presided over a Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting last night.

According to a responsible Palestinian source, the Revolutionary Council discussed the results reached by the Fatah Central Committee during its meetings in Tunis over the last 2 days. The Central Committee meetings were dedicated to discussing developments in the Palestinian issue and the situation in the occupied territories in light of the escalation and continuation of the blessed popular uprising against Zionist injustice, terrorism, and oppression against our people.

'Historic Resolution' Adopted

LD031845 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, held as part of a series of meetings which the emergency committee is convening to escalate the blessed glorious uprising in our occupied land, the PLO Executive Committee decided that the Palestinian people should primarily be responsible for themselves and for consolidating the steadfastness of our people under Israeli occupation in occupied Palestine. This must be implemented by making every Palestinian family outside occupied Palestine responsible for a family in Palestine among our kin and people, who are bravely, faithfully, and determinedly combatting the racist Zionist enemy sitting on our sacred land. This should continue during the period of the glorious uprising.

As it adopts this historic resolution 56 days after this blessed uprising began, the Executive Committee is completely confident that all our Palestinian masses wherever they may be outside the occupied homeland will respond to this resolution, particularly as these masses from the very first moments started to assist their families and brothers under the Israeli occupation.

Therefore, this will be implemented through people's committees everywhere and in coordination with PLO bureaus.

The Executive Committee, as it adopts this historic resolution, is confident of our people's will and their belief in themselves and their generosity.

Just as the beginning of our revolution had depended on the vanguard and the arms of our sons, history is now repeating itself in the difficult circumstances facing the Palestinian march, especially the siege imposed on the revolution at all levels, which is part of a U.S. scheme in which certain Arab sides have unfortunately gotten involved. This scheme is trying in vain to abort this uprising, to strike our revolution, and to liquidate our cause.

At the same time, we are grateful to everyone in our Arab nation and our friends in the world who have contributed to supporting this Palestinian revolutionary uprising and march. [Signed] PLO Executive Committee

DFLP Calls for Campaign To Confront U.S. Moves

JN031430 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Within the context of its condemnation of the latest U.S. veto, the DFLP today called on the Arab states to immediately implement the recent Arab League Council's resolutions and to launch a large-scale diplomatic campaign to confront the U.S. maneuvers and moves which, first and foremost, are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories.

PLO Statement on U.S. Veto Against Resolution

JN032028 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1908 GMT 3 Feb 88

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee; date and place not given]

[Text] The use of the veto by the U.S. Administration against the draft resolution on the UN secretary general's report about the current situation and uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories, submitted by the nonaligned group to the Security Council, affirms this administration's insistence on continuing its hostile policy to the Palestinian people and their national rights. At the same time, the veto emphasizes the U.S. Administration's direct participation in protecting and supporting the iron fist policy being pursued by the Zionist leadership and condemned by world public opinion. The U.S. Administration used the veto against the draft resolution despite the fact that it was approved by 14 Security Council members and that the UN secretary general had pointed to several facts in his report. This reaffirms that the U.S. Administration openly challenges the international will. It also reveals the extent to which the U.S. Administration is involved in hostility toward the Palestinian people. This strips the United States of all international credibility with regard to the issue of peace in the Middle East.

The veto's coincidence with the current tour of the U.S. Administration's envoy Philip Habib and the suspect U.S. projects affirms that any wagering on changing the U.S. position and separating it from that of Israel will fail, that this position is hostile to our nation and people, and that it is aimed at foiling our people's uprising and political achievement in both the Arab and international arenas. Such wagering is also aligned with the Israeli plot against our Palestinian people and their inalienable national rights. The PLO has stressed at all times its adherence to a just and overall peace that will guarantee the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights in accordance with international law and Arab summit resolutions. It condemns these suspect U.S. moves and urges the militant Palestinian people to be more vigilant. The PLO—leadership and people—also affirms that it will continue the uprising and the revolutionary march of our Palestinian people until they achieve their inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, self- determination, and the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. Revolution until victory.

Commentary Criticizes Latest U.S. Veto in UN
JN032146 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1903 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the U.S. Administration's veto in the UN Security Council against a draft resolution calling on the Zionist entity to refrain from violating the humanitarian rights of the people of the uprising in the occupied homeland, to implement the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in wartime, and to devote its attention to the settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict under UN supervision has not come as a surprise, at least not to us. Approximately 1 month ago, there indeed was surprise, but not to us. At that time U.S. policy deviated from its known course, even if only in appearance, when the U.S. representative did not raise his hand to veto two successive resolutions on Zionist violations of the human rights of Palestinian citizens.

One of these resolutions called on the Zionist entity to suspend the implementation of its inhuman and oppressive decision to deport nine Palestinian citizens from their occupied homeland. At the time, some people had almost believed that U.S. policy toward the Zionist entity had reached the red line represented by this Palestinian blood. This blood is being shed profusely and embarrasses and confuses the advocates of freedom and human rights in Washington in light of the scandals which the racist and odious Israeli ally is committing with the help of all types of sophisticated U.S. weapons. However, the United States did not let those who had expressed optimism without cause wonder for long. The U.S. Administration did not veto the two resolutions issued last month because it knew, and we also knew, that the fascist Zionist measures against the sons of the heroic uprising would spread and would become so barbaric that only the U.S. Administration's conscience could bear it. This is really what happened yesterday when Israeli fascism reached its climax. The UN Security Council members were not able to bear this Zionist involvement in such crimes and the violation of the most basic human rights. Only the U.S. Administration's conscience was able to bear all of this.

Does this issue only involve the conscience? This is not the question to which we want a reply, for we know what is far more serious and what is far more important. What we want to say is that all this is completely in line with U.S. policy. If the United States had not vetoed the UN Security Council resolution, then the U.S. Administration would have been forced to extricate itself from a dilemma of contradiction in which it would find itself as a result of the disparity between its policy before and after the resolution. That is why U.S. policy has chosen the safer course. It chose to remain completely in line with Israeli policy. This is what happened in the UN Security Council. Anything else would be a surprise. Otherwise, who would defend the Zionist entity's belligerence, arrogance, and barbaric actions if the U.S. Administration only abstained from voting?

The heroes of the uprising in the occupied homeland understand this U.S. stand and policy very well. This is shown by the fact that they only set two flags on fire, the Zionist and the U.S. flags. The only thing that remains to be said is that the U.S. veto used against the freedom of a people who are mapping out their future with such determination and insistence is merely an ax directed against the head of the U.S. Statue of Liberty. Our people's rise to the summit of glory will be the only thing that will make the United States reconsider its policy on the fascist Zionist occupation, an occupation that will recede through our glorious struggle.

Al-Quds Radio Urges Education Officer To Resign
JN031656 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1628 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Zionist education officer has closed 800 schools and 4 universities in various parts of Palestine in a desperate attempt to quell our people's revolution there.

Al-Quds radio knows the name of this officer. It is aware of his affiliations, roots, and past, but will not resort to publicly exposing him. Al-Quds radio calls on him to immediately resign his post to protest this closure order; otherwise, we will consider him a collaborator with the Zionist authorities.

Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the road to liberating the land and man.

Al-Sa'iqah Leader Addresses Palestinians
JN031535 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Message from 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization—Al-Sa'iqah Forces, "to our kinfolk in Palestine"—live or recorded]

[Text] Our kinfolk in Palestine and the Golan: We send you an Arab greeting at a time when you are confronting the occupier with your blood, thus bringing the liberation of Palestine closer through the continuation and escalation of your uprising. Your blessed, holy revolution will get closer to Palestine with every stone hurled by any of our children at the ugly face of the occupier, with every martyr falling in the field, with every demonstration, and with every chant.

Our kinfolk in the occupied homeland, masses of the revolutionary uprising: Your heroic struggle for the sake of free and liberated Palestine means the liberation of the nation. Therefore, your great revolution, which is continuing and escalating, is greater in size than the geography of our homeland. It is an extension of a great

history dating far back in time. It is also an influential revival of glorious chapters in history. Today's uprising of occupied Palestine is integrally complementing the Arab nation's struggle and is assuming a pioneering position within it.

We are fully confident that your glorious uprising will continue. As it does so, the Palestine question will become impregnable to liquidationist attempts, which have not ended and will not end before we act together to eradicate its evil roots and tools both within and outside the Palestinian home. The enemies of Palestine are now preparing to swoop down on your uprising in order to thwart it and prevent it from attaining its great strategic aims. The Egyptian regime's new initiative briefly means the liquidation of the Palestine question on the basis of the Camp David accords. Those who left the occupied territory for Washington to meet with its secretary of state can in no way be the real representatives of our people. They, as we all know, are rejected and represent only themselves. They are today looking for back doors through which they can enter carrying shortsighted slogans. The uprising, whose broad political horizon is opening out upon liberated Palestine, will not do so for a confederation or for self-rule, which you and we rejected when together we rejected the Camp David accords.

Your great uprising has thus far achieved gains which cannot be stolen by any power in the world. The gains of the uprising are entrenched through blood and by its continuation and escalation. We are all bound by duty to safeguard these gains and the tools are plenty. We safeguard our national gains by our national charter, by the fighting rifle, and by armed struggle which meets and complements the great uprising. It thus protects it from exploitation and keeps it away from bargaining.

O our kinfolk in all occupied Palestine and the Golan: By your uprising you have announced the beginning of the countdown for the removal of the ugly Zionist occupation and the removal of imperialist hegemony not only from our homeland Palestine, but from the entire Arab homeland as well. Do not stop now that you have brought about this tremendous positive turning point in the course of our national and pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and its protectors. Do not stop now that you have turned the stones of the homeland into a weapon that is initially equal to the enemy power, that is paralyzing its war machine, and that will be superior to it in the coming stage.

Greetings to you, and we will return.

'Peace Ship' To Set Sail for Israel 10 Feb

JN031338 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 88 p 1

[By Hamadah Fara'inah]

[Excerpt] Amman—A "peace ship" carrying Palestinians deported from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will sail from the Greek port of Salonika Feb. 10 heading for the Israeli port of Haifa, informed sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the ship would call at Larnaca, Cyprus, and Port Sa'id, Egypt, before dropping anchor off Haifa until the expelled Palestinians aboard were allowed to return to their homeland.

Passengers aboard the vessel will include Palestinian pesonalities from all walks of life and the ship will be accompanied by another ferry carrying world personalities including former Austrain Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Archbishop Hilario Capucci, representatives of the information media and public and private organisations in socialist countries, politicians from Eastern and Western Europe and the U.S. and others, the sources said.

Throughout the cruise, press conferences will be held and the voyage of the "peace ship" will be transmitted lived to all world countries.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said that the voyage is intended as a high sign that Palestinians are willing to return to their homeland peacefully and establish "a real, honourable peace" with Israel and also a means to pressure Israel to revoke its expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. The U.N. Security Council issued two resolutions in December deploring the Israeli practice.

A list of 198 people from Jordan who are expected to be aboard the vessel was available to the JORDAN TIMES Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Natural Gas Accord Signed With Turkey

LD021408 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The minutes of the fifth Algerian-Turkish committee session were signed by Mr Zitouni Messaoudi, Algerian minister of light industry, and Kazim Oksay, Turkish minister of state, in Algiers this morning.

Included in the minutes is an agreement between the Algerian Sonatrach Company and the Turkish Botas Company on arrangements and conditions for supplying Turkey with 40 billion cubic meters of Algerian liquid natural gas. This quantity may be increased in the future. They decided to supply the Turkish market with Algerian liquid natural gas for 20 years, beginning in 1992. This agreement contributes to the consolidation and stabilization of long-term economic relations between Algeria and Turkey and opens new horizons for developing bilateral cooperation.

Officials Meet With Libyan Delegation

LD032324 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Algiers, al-Nuwar [February] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This morning, "Rabah Bitat" the member of the Political Bureau and the chairman of the Popular Council in Algeria, received a delegation from the General People's Congress.

In the meeting, which was attended by Algeria's ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah, a review was carried out on what has been accomplished of the unity projects in various fields between the sons of the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

Bendjedid Receives Ghanaian Representative

LD020007 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received Mohamed ibn Chambas, the assistant secretary of the Provisional Defense Council in Ghana in charge of foreign affairs, at the presidential headquarters today. The Ghanaian visitor handed him a message from the Ghanaian head of state, Captain Jerry Rawlings.

The president of the Republic also received (Shaykh Hadj Abbas Sal), the religious leader and chairman of the Hanafiya League of the Islamic revivsl in Senegal. The meeting was attended by Boualem Baki, member of the Politburo and minister of religious affairs.

Memorandum Signed

LD032255 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] An Algerian-Ghanaian memorandum crowned the work of the third session of the joint committee of the two countries at the Foreign Ministry today. The minutes were signed on behalf of Algeria by Mohamed Aberkane, deputy foreign minister in charge of international cooperation, and on behalf of the Ghana by Mohamed ibn Chambas, assistant secretary of foreign affairs.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the level of exchanges between their two countries and agreed to consolidate the cooperation between them.

Egypt

Al-Baz Explains Objectives of Mubarak's Tour

NC040812 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed that President Mubarak's tour has so far realized its objectives to a great extent and has produced extremely positive results.

In an interview in the AL-AHRAM newspaper today, Dr al-Baz said: In order to assess the results of this tour, the world public should know what the objectives of the trip are. President Mubarak's principal aim is to wage an intensive diplomatic campaign to encourage European and U.S. commitment toward playing a positive role in the Middle East region and contributing to the achievement of an acceptable peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem, in order to end the Palestinian people's ordeal and persectuion and curb the tension resulting from the continuation of the problem.

Dr al-Baz stated that the second objective of the tour is to help find a way to terminate the Gulf war, which is generating great instability, insecurity, and lack of tranquility in the Gulf area in particular and in the Arab homeland in general.

The third aim of President Mubarak's tour, Dr al-Baz added, is to reinforce U.S. and European commitment toward confronting economic problems, not only in Egypt, but in the world in general and in Africa in particular. He pointed out that Mubarak did not intend to seek direct U.S. assistance for the developing countries; rather, the aim was to bring about an integrated approach in which U.S. assistance would play a certain role. The debts constitute a massive problem affecting all the African states, he asserted. He pointed out that President Mubarak took with him a message from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the current OAU chairman, on the debts issue.

Therefore, Dr al-Baz added: If we were to assess the results of the tour on such a basis, we would say that it has attained all these objectives to a great extent, not 100 percent, but to a great extent.

Asked about President Mubarak's visit to the United States, Dr al-Baz said that the U.S. Administration's attitude was characterized by a certain degree of flexibility with regard to the convening of an international conference. This administration was requested to express a specific attitude if it sees that by so doing it would serve the cause of peace, regardless of who advocates or rejects this particular course, he stated. He added: It was therefore impossible for the administration to remain idle or crippled just because the Likud rejects the idea of a conference. Hence, President Mubarak sought to make the United States adopt a clear-cut, strong stand on this matter.

Dr al-Baz said that the flexibility demonstrated by the United States was generated by a number of factors—the spontaneous uprising in which the Palestinian people voiced their rejection of occupation, Egypt's insistence on preserving the momentum, Egyptian-Jordanian and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, and Egypt's endeavors to formulate a unified Arab stand and create broader opportunities to enable Syria to join in the peace process.

Commenting on the U.S. ideas, Dr al-Baz reported that the United States had suggested certain ways of confronting the situation. These suggestions might be sound in some aspects but not in others, he stated.

Asked about his expectations from President Mubarak's visit to Morocco, Dr al-Baz said the trip is extremely important and will deal with Arab issues, particularly those of the Middle East and Gulf. He pointed out that King Hassan II, who is the chairman of the ICO's Al-Qud Committee, is conducting active efforts in this regard.

Paper Expresses 'Astonishment' at U.S. Veto

NC040707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses its astonishment at the United States' use of its veto to prevent the adoption of a recent UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's violations in the occupied Arab territories. In Thursday's editorial the paper says that this U.S. position raises a question about Washington's real intentions regarding the ugly crimes and brutalities the Israeli authorities are committing against the Palestinian people, particularly after some had come to believe that the Reagan administration was dissatisfied with the inhuman practices in the occupied territories.

The paper adds that the Reagan administration's objection to a resolution supported unanimously by representatives of the international community in the UN Security Council can mean only that it has given the green light to Israel's leaders to continue their actions, actions which have been denounced by all the countries of the world. This is despite the United States' realization that such actions could increase tension and hinder any effort to restore calm and peace in the Middle East.

The paper notes that the U.S. representative offered flimsy reasons to justify the U.S. veto, arguing that the Council has already issued other resolutions regarding the events in the occupied territories, making a new resolution pointless. The paper says that such an argument is designed to conceal the real intentions of the United States. It would have been possible to accept these arguments had Israel not ignored the previous resolutions.

Cooperation Committee With Togo Begins Session

NC031445 Cairo MENA in English 1438 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 3 (MENA)—The first session of the Higher Egyptian-Togolese Cooperation Committee was held here today.

The Egyptian side was led by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The Togolese side was led by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of Togo.

During the two-day meetings of the committee, possibilities of strengthening and deepening cooperation between Egypt and Togo will be explored.

At the end of the meetings, the two sides will sign an agreement for cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Assistance to Africa and the Republic of Togo.

The two sides will also sign an executive protocol for the cultural agreement between the two countries.

The protocol will cover the next three years.

Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 3 Feb

NC032121 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola arrived in Cairo tonight on a 4-day visit to Cairo. During his stay, Mazola will hold talks with officials on international issues of mutual interest and on bilateral relations. The Cuban official's visit to Egypt is part of his tour to a number of Middle East countries.

Morocco

Further on Visit by Egyptian President Mubarak

Meets Party Officials

LD031430 Rabat Domestic Service In Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The friendly working visit being paid to our country by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is now in its 2d day. The first round of talks between His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, and the Egyptian President took place at the residence of Morocco's great guest yesterday immediately following his arrival to the city of Marrakesh. These talks lasted for 30 minutes.

Prior to this, the leaders of the two countries had had a 15-minute discussion at the VIP lounge in the Marrakesh-Menara airport where the Egyptian President arrived yesterday afternoon.

Later this morning in Marrakesh, President Husni Mubarak received the following leaders and representatives of the Moroccan political parties:

Maati Bouabid, president of the Constitutional Union;

Ahmed Osman, president of the National Rally of Independents;

Mohamed Laansar, secretary general of the Popular Movement;

Abdelkrim Ghallab, from the Istiqlal Party;

Mohamed Elyazghi, from the Socialist Union of Popular Forces;

Khalli Hanna Ould Rachid, from the National Democrat Party; and

Ali Yata, secretary general of the Party of Progress and Socialism.

The talks covered Arab and Islamic issues, the uprising of the Palestinian people, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, and the experience of democracy in Morocco and Egypt.

Views Relations, Other Issues

NC031559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Marrakesh, 3 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that cooperation between Egypt and Morocco to find a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian problem never stopped, even during the period when bilateral realtions were frozen. He added that fraternal Morocco is playing an effective role in explaining the Arab issues to various world organizations, including Zionist ones. He said: The policy of Egypt and Morocco is one and the same with regard to the Palestinian issue.

President Mubarak described Egyptian-Moroccan relations as deep and firm. He noted that the restoration of ties between their two countries has not changed their stands.

Asked for his opinion about the warm welcome he has received since his arrival in Marrakesh yesterday, President Mubarak asserted: The Moroccan people received me as the president of Egypt. This reception expressed the extent of the cordial and fraternal relations between the two peoples. It also expressed the true feelings of the Moroccan people toward the Egyptian people, particularly as these two peoples are bound by historic and cultural ties.

President Mubarak stressed the importance of uniting the Arab stand vis-a-vis the problems and challenges so that they can be solved. He added that he is always calling on Arabs to unite their stand in order to solve their problems.

Hassan, Mubarak Hold Talks

LD031859 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] King Hassan II gave a luncheon this afternoon in honor of President Husni Mubarak of Egypt at the Gulf Club in Marrakesh. [passage omitted] Afterward, the king and the Egyptian president chaired an extended working session in the presence of Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed. Taking part on the Moroccan side were: Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki, Foreign and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali, Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri, and advisers to the king Ahmed Reda Guedira and Mohamed Aouad, as well as the Moroccan ambassador to Egypt. Taking part in the working session on behalf of Egypt were: Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, adviser to the Egyptian president for political affairs; Dr Zakariyah 'Azmi, secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic; and the Egyptian ambassador to Morocco.

Leaders Attend Luncheon

LD041401 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Marrakesh, Feb. 4 (MAP)—King Hassan II, who was accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed Wednesday offered a luncheon in Marrakesh, in honor of visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

The luncheon was attended by Premier Azzedine Laraki and the members of the Moroccan cabinet, Speaker of the House Ahmed Osman, the king's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira and Mohamed Aouad, senior officers of the General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces and several high ranking civil and military personalities.

It was attended on the Egyptian side by Deputy-Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Minister of the Cabinet's Affairs and Aministrative Development Atif 'Ubayd, Director of the President's Political Affairs Bureau Usamah al-Baz, as well as the two countries' ambassadors and the diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat.

The Egyptian president had arrived in Marrakesh Tuesday afternoon on a friendship and work visit to Morocco.

Mutual Friendship Praised

LD032253 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 feb 88

[Excerpts] King Hassan II hosted a luncheon in honor of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this afternoon. It was an occasion on which his majesty and the Egyptian president exchanged amicable speeches emphasizing the depth of personal relations between the two leaders and the fraternal ties between the two peoples. His majesty addressed his great guest saying:

[Begin King Hassan recording] God be praised, and prayers and peace be upon our master the prophet, his family, and followers. Gentlemen, I do not need to introduce today's honored guest. President Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt, is known as he should be known. Everything I will say about him as a president will either come short or fail to reflect his actual qualities. However, I would like to talk to you about the person, the man. I have known this man, whom we like and appreciate, since we first met in 1975. During that visit he came as a special envoy of his predecessor, His Excellency President Anwar al-Sadat, may God have mercy on his soul.

The mission was prolonged, and he became my friend and brother. Because of this mission and its length and difficulties, he started to come repeatedly to his second country, Morocco. At that time, I knew the man. The man is a straight man. A proud man. A man who is not tempted by temptations; power does not go to his head. He is a loyal and a realistic man. In short, he is a man whom every faithful Muslim wishes to count among his friends and brothers. Congratulations to Egypt and the people of Egypt that God has given them such a leader. Congratulations to us, here in Morocco, that God has given us in the eastern Arab world such a friend and such a colleague. May God grant him a long life and guide him, and make him always fulfill the hopes of his people, his Arab family, and his Muslim family. Here is a fraternal kiss for President Mubarak. [end recording]

His Excellency President Husni Mubarak then replied amicably to his majesty's words. He said:

[Begin Mubarak recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My dear brother and friend, your majesty. Gentlemen, I was deeply touched by the words of my brother, the king, who is, as he mentioned, a dear friend of mine and of the people of Egypt. Indeed, I first met his majesty during a mission in January 1975; that was my first meeting with him. I was impressed, and every day I became more so. At the end of the journey I had a strong impression about my brother his majesty and about the great people of Morocco. That was my first visit to this fraternal country, my second country, and my introduction to His Majesty King Hassan II, about whom and about the great loyal people of Morocco I had heard a lot. Whatever I say, I will never be able to give his majesty his worth of love, appreciation, sincere fraternity, and unequaled amicability. Thank you brother king. My love and appreciation to you and to the great people of Morocco. I wish us all, in the Arab and African nations, behind your leadership, dear brother and friend, that God may always guide us to the good of this nation. Thank you, your majesty, brother and friend, and I hope that you will accept my greetings and kisses. [end recording] [passage omitted]

After meeting with Moroccan political leaders earlier today, a meeting which lasted over an hour, the Egyptian president gave us a statement in which he said:

[Begin Mubarak recording] [Words indistinct] the political parties, which are Moroccan Arab parties. There are strong bonds between us and Morocco and its parties. In fact, they were asking about our positions, in general, toward Arab issues, the Middle East problem [words indistinct] Israel, the dossier of the Sahara issue, and all these situations. It was a realistic, frank and, constructive discussion. I am really interested when I talk to our brothers in telling them the truth and the facts from my point of view. [end recording]

President Husni Mubarak toured Marakkesh this evening. The tour included the most important historic sights. He also visited the traditional handicraft complex.

Joint Communique Issued

NC040623 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] A joint communique was issued in Cairo and Rabat today on the talks held between President Husni Mubarak and King Hassan II of Morocco. The communique states that within the framework of the fraternal and friendly relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Arab Republic of Egypt, and in response to an invitation from the Moroccan monarch, President Husni Mubarak paid a friendly and working visit to Morocco 2-4 February. The official talks between the two leaders were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and

mutual respect. The talks covered various international and regional issues, particularly the Middle East and Palestinian issues; the uprising in the occupied Arab territories in view of the latest developments; and international efforts to establish peace, to convene an international conference, to find a solution for the Gulf war, and to settle outstanding disputes in Africa.

The two leaders agreed on the need to settle international conflicts peacefully. The talks also dealt with promoting bilateral cooperation and the need to modernize and upgrade existing bilateral agreements to reflect the existing and increasingly close ties between the two countries and peoples. In this respect, the leaders of the two countries agreed to establish a higher joint committee, to be cochaired by the prime ministers of each country. The committee is to meet every 6 months, in Cairo and Rabat alternately. The committee members hold their first meeting in Cairo in April 1988.

At the conclusion of the talks, President Husni Mubarak expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and the warm reception accorded him and his accompanying delegation by King Hassan II and the Moroccan people.

[Rabat MAP in English at 1300 GMT on 4 February adds: "The two heads of state decided to exchange official visits, the communique went on, specifying that King Hassan II has accepted President Mubarak's invitation to make an official visit to Egypt at a date to be fixed later."]

King Bides Mubarak Farewell

LD032352 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II visited Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at his residence in Marrakesh this evening. His majesty bade farewell to Morocco's great guest at the end of his working and friendly visit to our country.

Mubarak Leaves for Rome

NC040906 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0852 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Marrakesh, 4 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation left Marrakesh for Rome this morning following a 3-day visit to Morocco. President Mubarak was seen off at the airport by Moroccan Crown Prince Muhammad and senior state officials.

Prime Minister Laraki Returns From Tunisia

LD031505 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki returned to Morocco late this morning after completing an official visit to Tunisia. He made a statement at Marrakesh-Menara airport, in which he said:

[Begin recording] I am returning from Tunisia after spending 2 days there in the company of the ministerial delegation that accompanied me. This period was full of work, both with regard to aspects of trade, industrial, cultural, and financial exchanges, and to the political talks conducted on what is happening in the Arab Maghreb region and what is of interest to the Arab and Islamic world.

I had the opportunity to deepen talks with the Tunisian officials, at the level of the prime minister and with his excellency the president of the Republic, Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. I also had the opportunity for a contact with the speaker of the House of Representatives, who invited me to attend a public session of the Tunisian Parliament. Thus it was an opportunity for me to get in touch with the representatives of the Tunisian people at the House of Representatives.

I return to Morocco very optimistic with regard to the future of bilateral relations and the mutual eagerness of Morocco and Tunisia for the establishment of the Arab Maghreb edifice. I also return entrusted with a message of consideration, respect, and esteem to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, from the representatives of the Tunisian people, the government and the president of the Tunisian Republic, for the great action his majesty is carrying out for the benefit of Morocco and Tunisia. [end recording]

His excellency the prime minister was welcomed by some members of the government.

Sudan

Armed Forces Spokesman Details Raids on Kapeota

JN031527 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Feb (SUNA)—The Sudanese Air Force has begun raiding outlaw concentrations in the town of Kapeota, which was evacuated by the Armed Forces over the past 2 weeks. This was confirmed by a military spokesman here today. The spokesman added that the Air Force raids scored direct hits against the defense fortifications established by the outlaws. He reported that the Sudanese Air Force had raided the Wad Hiol [name as received] camp, killing 51 outlaws and destroying 2 82-mm mortars, while the other outlaws fled.

The military spokesman said that the Sudanese Armed Forces are in control of all positions in the Equatoria region with the exception of Kapeota. They have pursued groups of outlaws which appeared in the Birjuk and Keyala [names as received] areas on the Ugandan borders. The Sudanese forces inflicted heavy losses on them and captured one officer with the rank of lieutenant.

In the meantime, Equatoria region Governor Peter Syrlo has sent an urgent cable from Juba in which he affirmed that the cities of Torit, Mundri, Terkala, and Kajo Kaji have not fallen and that the Sudanese Armed Forces are in complete control of these cities. Syrlo stressed that the morale of the Equatoria government, the citizens, and the Armed Forces is very high, and that they are ready to recapture Kapeota.

Dr Samtono Agyor [name as received] [word indistinct] financial and economic affairs in the Equatoria region, had denied that the above cities have fallen in the hands of the outlaws as the Equatoria region deputy governor stated at his news conference. He said that his statements were misinterpreted when they were translated into Arabic. What he really said was that there are outlaws in the above cities, but that they have not fallen into their hands. [passage indistinct]

Al-Mahdi Details Food Transport Problems

EA032208 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Dear comrades in arms, honorable listeners: Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in his news conference yesterday talked about securing the food situation in the south. He mentioned that Equatoria needs 11,000 tonnes of food to secure the situation until December 1988. Bahr al-Ghazal needs 12,000 tonnes and Upper Nile needs 10,000 tonnes. He pointed out that there is no problem getting these amounts, but there is a problem in transporting them.

He pointed out that 170,000 tonnes are being transported by road in addition to an air bridge which is daily flying 3 planes to Juba transporting 400 tonnes, and which will continue to transport another 1,600 tonnes to Juba. He explained that several protected convoys had left for Juba, Malakal, and Wau. A second batch of 280 trucks has left for Bahr al-Ghazal carrying 3,500 tonnes to Nyala-Raga-Wau, as well as 1,000 tonnes along the Raga-Wau road. Railway cars from Babanusah are providing 600 tonnes of relief supplies and 36 loaded wagons pulled by 9 engines are moving toward Malakal. [passage omitted]

Rebels To Attack 'Any' Aircraft in War Zone

EA031542 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1330 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Some important news just in: The official SPLM-SPLA spokesman in a statement just released to Radio SPLA has clarified the movement's stand on Al-Sadiq's plan to airlift food and troops to Juba as announced yesterday. The text of the statement released by the SPLM-SPLA spokesman reads as follows:

According to the BBC, VOA, and other reputable international media, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday, 2 February 1988, announced that his government was going to fly in troops and war material to Juba in his bid to recapture the town of Kapoeta. Quoting the same sources, the prime minister emphasized that his government's determination to recapture Kapoeta has no limits.

In this connection, the SPLA has not much to say, but to simply remind Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that the same power and tactics that forced his (?army) that was in Kapoeta to make a tactical withdrawal to Uganda will surely force any other force that attempts to come to Kapoeta to flee to a foreign country. The SPLA is fully prepared to repulse and exploit Al-Sadiq's folly of attempting to recapture Kapoeta.

There is, however, a sinister and odious aspect of the troops airlift. In the same speech, and again quoting the BBC and VOA, Al-Sadiq announced that his government was going to airlift troops and war materials to Juba for the recapture of Kapoeta. According to the BBC, Al-Sadiq called the food airlift a separate airlift. How in the world does Al-Sadiq imagine the SPLA to distinguish planes for the food airlifts from those for troop airlifts when the two are being conducted at the same time and the same airfield?

Al-Sadiq insults common sense and goes beyond. The cynical smile and blackmail by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is very transparent and abohrrent. In plain words, Al-Sadiq is telling the SPLA, and I quote: Southerners are dying of hunger and because [as heard], I am going to fly in food relief, but as a practical politician, I am going to fly in my troops and war material for the recapture of Kapoeta at the same time that I am going to give your people food. If you shoot down the food planes, your people starve. If you allow the food planes, I fly in my army and increase my chances of recapturing Kapoeta, unquote.

Clearly Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has no regard for the suffering people in southern Sudan. The SPLA will not accept Al-Sadiq's blackmail of combining food airlift with troops airlift. This tactic is reckless, irresponsible, inhuman and only the mind of a racist slave trader like Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi can produce such a hideous plan.

The SPLA High Command therefore declares all airspace in war zone closed to all air traffic, whether military or civilian, and orders its air defense units to bring down any aircraft in violation of this order.

The famine situation in southern Sudan is desperate in both government controlled towns and in the countryside. The modalities of food relief will be discussed separately by the movement and relief organizations. Meanwhile, it is necessary for the affected southern

community and international relief organizations to bring pressure to bear on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to disassociate military airlift from food airlift.

It is indeed quite deplorable that Al-Sadiq should announce his troop airlift at a time the movement was discussing the food relief with concerned Sudanese in the form of the mercy committee. It is amazing that the world community tolerates and (?dines) with this slave trader who calls himself prime minister of the Sudan. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi sponsors and condones slavery in the Sudan in its 18th century form when humankind is approaching the 21st century.

There are slave markets now in western Sudan, markets that are known to the prime minister. The booklet on slavery in the Sudan and the Daien massacre, researched and written by two respected University of Khartoum professors, provides irrefutable (?evidence) of government-sponsored slave trade in the Sudan. Yet the world keeps silent and welcomes this slave trader as the prime minister of Sudan.

The SPLA appeals to human rights organizations to investigate slavery and slave trade in the Sudan and to condemn Khartoum's use of food relief for military purposes, a fact Al-Sadiq does not hide as he was bragging about it in the domestic and international media yesterday.

SPLA Radio Attacks Council of South Chairman

EA032138 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation army in English 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Compatriots, SPLA combatants in the field, greetings to you all in the name of our revolutionary armed struggle and welcome to this week's edition of your program "With the Battalions."

Comrades in struggle, the sectarian regime in Khartoum and their puppets have been waging anti-SPLA campaign in the attempts to mislead public opinion. They have been accusing the movement of blocking food supplies to the starving population in the south.

Last week, the opportunist and puppet Matthew Abor Ayang [chairman of Sudanese Council of the South] libelled some false accusations and heaped some insults on the movement's leadership. Abor also took that opportunity to announce his political and military wings to fight the SPLM-SPLA. He announced without shame the name of his separatist movement, the Southern Liberation Front. Abor also in his press conference mentioned the Anya Nya II as his military wing, forgetting that the Anya Nya II and the SPLA have concluded a peace agreement and are now united under one flag to fight the government in Khartoum.

The absurdity of Abor's fighting force is that it comprises only two nationalities, the Toposa and Fartit. It does not embrace all the nationalities of the southern Khartoum, southern Sudan or southern Shilluk or whichever south he meant. This confirms the thinking of a madman.

Abor, if he was sound in mind, could have made enough research into the Toposa area in Kapoeta District and the Fartit in western Bahr al-Ghazal. In fact, by the time Abor announced his movement, the leader of the Toposa militia, who were armed by Khartoum, had joined the SPLA with all his people, even before the fall of Kapoeta. They were the people who contributed a great deal towards the capture of Kapoeta by the SPLA, by directing the SPLA to the speicific locations of the enemy troops in Kapoeta.

Abor must know that if he is enjoying Al-Sadiq's bloody money in Khartoum, the Toposa population and the rest of the other nationalities in Kapoeta district (? are back in freedom now). Kapoeta district has been freed from the oppressive system of rule in Khartoum. In fact, what must have prompted Matthew Abor to form his controversial movement is the threat from the Union of the Sudan African Parties to unsit him democratically, because he was handpicked by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and imposed on the southern people. He had no political party, he has no supporters in the countryside, as well as in the (?mock) parliamentary democracy of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Abor has always been basing his opportunism on the Anya Nya II leadership, but he found it difficult to get because he had no support of the Anya Nya II fighters under Major General Gordon Kong Chuol.

He has been looking for a political and military wing to join in to enable him to bargain for sectarian leadership, but none of the political forces in the country was ready to accept him, leave alone the military wings which needed active and sound-minded personnel.

In his desperate search for leadership, Abor threw himself to the SPLA in 1984 with a hope of becoming the leader of the movement. When he saw that the chances for him to get the leadership of the SPLM-SPLA were very remote, Abor defected again, returned to Khartoum and joined the group of Shamasheen [street people], who were roaming the streets of Khartoum drinking cheap Waraggi [locally brewed alcohol] and petrol and disturbing the public. Being an educated Shamashah, Abor became the founding member and editor-in-chief of the Shamashah Arabic language newspaper, without the command of the Arabic language. For those of you who do not know Arabic, the word shamashan means riff-raff, or disreputable person. That much is how I can explain the Arabic word shamashah.

Abor belongs to that group. But all the same, we was hand picked by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and made to be the leader of the south. We don't know whether Al-Sadiq considers the southerners to be riff-raff or shamasheen. No one knows.

Shamashah Matthew Abor, now hearing that the Anya Nya II have joined the SPLA and are now fighting as one force against the sectarian government in Khartoum, and with threats from the African parties to unseat him, he now jumps to occupy the Anya Nya II leadership and to convince the regime in Khartoum to give him his daily bread. Shamashah Abor had to announce an imaginary army composed of two nationalities of the south, if we take the Fartit as one nationality and the Toposa as the other.

Abor's intentions to make himself the leader of an imaginary movement with no army is just to buy himself time to hang on to the leadership for the south. He wants to frighten Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that, look here, if you take me out from the share, I and my imaginary fighting force will go to join the SPLA. This is the kind of bargaining Shamashah Abor is trying to push through without knowing that no people will accept to be led by a disreputable person, unless that person is imposed on them.

Whatever tricks Abor would want to play in order to hang on to power, the Union of African Political Parties is prepared to throw Abor to the dustbin of history.

The puppet who was instigated by Khartoum to speak against the SPLM-SPLA is Mr Morris Lawiya, the deputy of governor, abbreviated as D.O.G., the dog of Equatoria. The deputy of governor but nothing of his own but the ideas of the man who feeds him, the Khartoum's prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Mr Lawiya's mobilization campaign to recapture Kapoeta is no different from Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's public mobilization during the time the SPLA was in Kurmuk, Qaysan, and other smaller towns in southern Blue Nile. The only difference is that Al-Sadiq wants this very appeal to be sounded by a southerner in order to have a weight. But he could as well send this southerner to the African countries to look for arms for recapturing Kapoeta as he himself, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, did go to the Arab countries to look for arms, because Kurmuk is in what they call the Arab north and Kapoeta is in the so-called African south.

There are other reasons which also made Lawiya to repeat Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's words in the case of Kapoeta. One of these reasons is linguistic. The deputy of governor has no word of his own for putting his appeal, although he could have made it in his own mother tongue, but then the pressmen and women could not have got it. So the only way out was to repeat what Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had earlier said about Kurmuk. One of the reasons also which made Lawiya to imitate Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is that Al-Sadiq is the best friend of Lawiya. Lawiya's political party, SAPCO [Sudanese African People's Congress], is sponsored by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's Al-Ummah party or Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself. When Lawiya's father died in Yei, Lawiya did not bother to go for the funeral. But when Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's cousin died Lawiya went and spent 7 days and 7 nights in Al-Sadiq's house, more than the customary mourning days.

Now Lawiya wants to return the oppressors to Kapoeta so that the people of Kapoeta are oppressed and made to sit waiting for food and fortune from the oppressor's houses like what he, Lawiya, has done and is still doing. The SPLM-SPLA will never allow this. We will never compromise the rights of our people for food. The Khartoum Government is to be blamed for the plight of those people in the towns it is holding. The SPLM-SPLA has made its position clear last year as regards food supplies to the needy. The movement's leadership allowed the relief organizations to fly food to both government and SPLA-controlled areas. The organizations acted fast by taking food to the government-controlled areas and when it came the time for them to take the food to the SPLA-controlled areas, the regime in Khartoum prevented the organizations from flying the food. At the same time, the food that was taken to the government-controlled towns was commandeered by the soldiers of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. That is why the world does not hear any cries of hunger from the Army garrisons under siege by the SPLA, but from the civilian population in Juba, Wau, and Malakal. The Army are contented. The Army have the food, but the civilians have no food: the food was commandeered by the Army and it is being consumed by the Army.

Above all, we have been appealing to the civilian population to get out of the towns in the war-affected areas to the countryside, but they have refused to listen and insist on living in the towns. Instead of listening to the voice of truth, these people keep on listening to the false propaganda of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his henchmen. The SPLA does not shoot down planes for the sake of shooting, or ambush car convoys for the sake of ambushing them. But it is because we are dictated by the war situation and some of these planes and trucks ferry armaments to the Khartoum Government soldiers instead of food to the civilian population facing starvation in the Khartoum government-held towns.

The government allegations that the SPLA is responsible for the starvation of the people is intended to cover up the government's dangerous plans to liquidate the people of the south.

It is unfortunate to see that the government of the day, which is claiming to protect the people, is at the same time claiming to liquidate them through food poison. As you might have heard from our news bulletins, some durra airlifted from Khartoum was discovered poisoned. This durra was brought by the government as a part of its

humanitarian aid to the starving people of Juba. The Khartoum Government wants to relieve the people of Juba from starving by killing them.

In 1986, Al-Sadiq's soldiers said they killed 22 enemy soldiers in Upper Nile on humanitarian grounds. Today, they have wanted to poison the Juba citizens through humanitarian food aid. Al-Sadiq's angry reaction to the discovery of the poison indicates that he intended to kill those innocent people. Al-Sadiq has failed to win the (?armed) conflict. That is why he is resorting to food poison which would kill indiscriminately. And yet people who claim to be the leaders of Equatoria go on mobilizing the foreign powers to come and fight the SPLA while their own people are being poisoned.

Now what explanation does the deputy of governor of Equatoria give to his people about this conduct of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi? Whether Lawiya likes it or not, the SPLA is not going to leave any stone unturned in Equatoria. That is why the Bright Star campaign is shining in Kapoeta. Tomorrow it will shine in Juba, until it shines in the whole of Equatoria and the Sudan at large. And with Shakkush hammering in the centre and west of Equatoria, our victory is certain. The struggle continues.

Tunisia

Ben Ali, Baccouche Greet Al-Qadhdhafi on Arrival

LD041636 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Our correspondent at Tunis-Carthage airport has informed us that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived at 1630 this afternoon at the invitation of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is accompanied by an important Libyan delegation.

Tunisia's great guest was welcomed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, and members of the government and the Political Bureau of the Socialist Destourian Party.

Baccouche, Morocco's Laraki Sign Minutes

LD032133 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] At Essaada Palace in La Marsa this morning, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and his Moroccan counterpart, Dr Azzedine Laraki, signed the minutes of the bilateral talks they held.

In these minutes, the two sides highlighted the spirit of sincere fraternity, mutual understanding, and their joint eagerness to strengthen the fruitful cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries. They praised the distinguished constructive characteristics which define bilateral relations.

They affirmed their determination to continue dialogue and consultations and proceed with diligent and firm steps on this road in order to lay down the formulas for cooperation in all fields. In addition, they agreed to expand the prospects for and raise the level of cooperation to the aspirations of the two peoples for building a better future under the aegis of solidarity and integrity.

The minutes of the talks also included various aspects of cooperation in different fields and what was agreed on during the Moroccan prime minister's visit to Tunisia, which ended today.

Ben Ali Speech to Nation on Elections, Democracy

LD040052 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1933 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Address to the nation by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fellow country men and women: Tunisia has witnessed the first partial legislative elections since 7 November. During these elections we saw a clear determination by citizens from all walks of life to support us in achieving our goal of opening the path to democracy. They were aware that our decision to refer to the people with all objectivity and fairness is an irrevocable decision of destiny.

We believe that the great gain achieved during the past elections—the partial ones—has opened the democratic path in this country, and created a dialogue between the people and all those who were candidates for their trust. This gain is one which should remain in our minds irrespective of the personality of the candidates and their political affiliations. We issued clear instructions that the executive authority should remain completely neutral toward all candidates, treat them equally, and see that the elections went smoothly among all parties so that the first step towards democracy was not spoiled by any hitch.

Out of loyalty, we see that it is our duty to say that our desire for proper procedures did not prevent some liberties from taking place here and there. What we want everyone to understand is that this should not come as a surprise, the opposite should have come as a surprise. No election can be free from such liberties at the beginning of a difficult march which aims to establish firm grounds for pluralism and new traditions of behavior among various parties, and to train the soul to be patient and to respect a different view, whatever it may be.

Therefore, we warmly appeal to everybody, and ask them to rid themselves of doubt, not listen to instigators of doubt, to overcome temporary and marginal appearances, to see the fundamental issue, which is not to doubt our intentions, to be vigilant in order to overcome the hurdles, and to show all their determination to confront these hurdles.

We should not forget that democracy is not only rules and laws, but is firstly and basically a matter of soul, ethics, discipline and practice. Democracy does not mean chaos, because chaos leads to totalitarian rule, enhances underdevelopment, and undermines chances of progress. Our firm belief is that democracy is the ideal atmosphere for the emergence and growth of our people's potential in creativity and craftmanship, and is the best way to exploit these potentials for the service of the nation and employ them in order to achieve the country's and people's prosperity out of choice and awareness.

We are always ready to enter into dialogue with all those who have sincere opinions in order to consolidate their confidence in the regime and spread an atmosphere of harmony and trust in society.

It is noteworthy that the independent candidates in these by-elections declared their commitment to the 7 November program. This phenomenon, which attracted the attention of the political forces at home, and commentators in the international arena, indicates a radical change in the political and social atmosphere because optimism and hope have now replaced despair, disinterest and complacency in the hearts of all Tunisians. They now feel that they are involved in the affairs of their country and responsible for the destiny of their homeland, and actually able to really participate in determining the present and future of Tunisia within the framework of institutions which enjoy their confidence and which are worthy of their respect.

There is no doubt that you have felt that we are addressing all our attention and are completely commited to implementing the 7 November principles in a realistic, long-term way, but without hesitation, at the same time as we are continuing to deal with the accumulated complex issues, whose importance and magnitude in all fields without exception you understand.

Yes, the responsibility of the state in dealing with these issues is a fundamental one. However, we have to distinguish between the issues, whose solution depends on a decision to be taken by the head of state and to be implemented by the government, and the issues whose solution requires, in addition to a political decision, other conditions and collective efforts by the various concerned sectors of the society.

For instance, everything that pertains to organizing political life depends on a political decision. Since 7 November, the decisions and laws in this field have followed in succession. And we will continue to work hard in this direction. But the other issues, the social, economic, and cultural issues, require perseverance.

It is wrong to believe that the state has a magic wand with which it is able to solve problems at once. Our country faces situations which have accumulated over many years, and in this confrontation it has few material resources except the ability of its sons to choose the (?proper) fate, of which we are proud.

This dictates to us what each of our responsibilities is and that the time has come for us to (decide?) our fate and turn to work and toil in order to give positive meaning to the changes whose slogan is "7 November." This will enable Tunisia to take firm steps toward achieving the most prominent national objectives which are: self-sufficiency in food, a reduction in the external debt burden, [words indistinct] through intellectual creativity, artistic creativity, scientific research, and technological innovation.

In order to realize these legitimate aspirations, all efforts should come together: government establishments, social organizations, and individual energies, with the conviction shared by all that this is a task that cannot be achieved overnight.

Citizens, progress can only be achieved through building institutions and respecting laws—matters which secure the citizen's trust in his country and its regime and spreads an atmosphere of stability and the [words indistinct]. And this is a great and mighty project which is only achieved when all efforts come together. The solidarity of all the people's forces, for the change which are are striving to achieve, should prevail over all the aspects of social life. They should be represented in what the citizens see when they watch television, in their dealings with the authorities, and when they visit a clinic or a hospital. But it should encompass all the material and moral prerequisites of the citizens' lives.

It is naive to believe that in bringing about change we will not face difficulties here and there. But we are determined to see that the change is profound, comprehensive, and drastic in all fields. We are eager to see on-the-spot followups in all that reflects on the daily life of the citizens or influences the development of every citizen's pride in the homeland. This will only come if information is this country has full credibility and if we are able to raise the administration's effectiveness in the services it provides for the citizens in sponsoring public interests, and if every citizen feels that the Tunisian judiciary is just and does its job.

But we reconfirm that in order to achieve our aspirations we require an atmosphere of trust, calm and goodwill. On this occasion, I want to appeal to the workers in particular, to urge them to be more vigilant and clear-sighted in order to always be on guard against the attempts to cast doubt and the bargaining whose sources are known to them, and which at any rate are known to us. As to their concerns and expectations [words indistinct].

We also appeal to all the vital forces among our people, and we say to them today that the nightmare of uncertainty, hesitation, and fear has been removed from the

country. The time has come for discipline to replace neglect and for every Tunisian to turn to work. We also say to them: There is no way to develop our country and achieve economic prosperity other than through work and toil. There is no way to improve our living standards other than through devotion to work. And there is no way to secure employment for our jobless youths other than through more work.

We have no dignity, no future in our sons other than through perseverance in work. Let them be confident that the 7 November statement is a program capable of achieving the desired change. We are determined to implement it with the backing of all groups of society. We insist on its full implementation in response to this deluge of enthusiasm and optimism which has filled our people since that day.

We therefore appeal to all the vital forces, including our youth, who are full of determination and ambition. We appeal to all those with sincere intentions who are eager for the good of this country and its progress and prosperity. We call on them to toil, united in their efforts, as one front in order to [words indistinct].

Citizens, the first thing we initiated after 7 November was the restoration of regard for Islam in this country, out of our belief that our tolerant religion, the prerequisite of our civilization, is a basic pillar in our society. We work to care for it, to raise its glow, revive its rites, and follow its teachings.

We therefore adopted several practical measures and important decisions, foremost among them the decision to restore respect for the glorious Al-Zaytunah University which we credit with the development of Islamic sciences and the establishment of the Arabic language in the region. For centuries the university has remained a mineret for scientific research and religious interpretation and a mecca for apostles from the Maghreb and the Mashriq. Because of our eagerness to implement the teachings of our noble religion and to preserve its pure values, we decided to carry out a continuous campaign to protect noble morals and to confront phenomena which contradict Islamic morals, whether in at home or in public places.

We are determined to continue the work to raise the word of religion and its tolerant teachings. We are eager to adhere to the noble values and principles without attaching the outward manifestations and formalities, rejecting all that contradicts the essence of Islam and its pure spirit that is peculiar to our Islamic-Tunisian authenticity, and that does not conform with what our fathers and grandfathers planted in this blessed soil [words indistinct] the accumulation of our heritage and the prerequisite of our spiritual personality.

We therefore did not hesitate in declaring that there is no room today for the exploitation of religion for political purposes or for certain goals of which religion is innocent.

Citizens, through the unification of your efforts and your devotion to work, and by avoiding marginal quarrels in our developing society which needs above all the production of the brains and brawn of all its sons, we shall be able to secure the means for the success of the 7 November program. Thus it may be, as we want it, a positive turning point in the march of progress of this nation and its prosperity, and in order to be among those who are right when they speak and those who fulfill their promises.

Let our concern be good work, guided by the saying of the almighty: Man can have nothing, but that for which he strives. The fruit of his striving will soon come in sight, and he will be rewarded, with a complete reward. God has spoken the truth. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Kuwait

Wakil-Led Afghan Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD031634 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil and his accompanying delegation traveled to Kuwait this morning on a friendly visit. The delegation was welcomed at the Kuwait international airport by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary of foreign affairs; a number of high-ranking officials from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry; and Hashmat Awrang, charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Regrets U.S. Veto in UN

LD031334 Kuwait KUNA in English 1249 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait Wednesday expressed regret towards the U.S. vetoing of a UN Security Council draft resolution calling for protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

Deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah said in response to a question in this respect such an attitude affects the U.S. credibility and its relations with the Arab world.

The U.S. which always holds slogans of human rights does not apply them to the Palestinians and allows the Israelis and others to violate such rights, said Shaykh al-Sabah who added such stands undermine the U.S. credibility and its human-right slogans.

Shaykh al-Sabah said Gulf states efforts are presently focused on issuance of complementary Security Council resolution, noting that the Saudi foreign minister's visit to Moscow took place within this framework.

He, however, hoped stability would obtain in the region without having to issue decisions by any party.

Foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Shaykh al-Sabah said, will soon meet in the Jordanian capital and will review all relevant issues including the issue of holding an emergency OIC conference.

Amir Extends Support to Palestinian Uprising

LD031732 Kuwait KUNA in English 1555 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 3 (KUNA)—His highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, Wednesday urged prompt effective support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and warned against recent settlement proposals intended "to foil this Palestinian revolution."

"If our Palestinian brothers felt there was no one backing them, frustration would creep to them. Therefore, it's our duty to support them not with words, statements and army parades but rather with action and prompt backing," his highness said.

His highness the amir made the remarks during an audience he granted to representatives of the Palestinian community in Kuwait who thanked his highness and the Kuwaiti Government for their support to the anti-Israeli occupation protests.

Responding to a statement by the PLO Kuwait representative 'Awni Batash who highly valued Kuwait's support for Arab national causes, his highness the amir said:

"As for Kuwait's attitude toward the Palestinian revolution, I do not want to hear words of gratitude because we think and believe what we have done was a duty dictated by our Arabism toward brothers trying all in their power to regain their homeland which was usurped by the enemies with the help of big powers."

H.H. the amir said Kuwait would shy away from saying it stood by the Palestinian people as much as it really wanted to. "There are things and circumstances that make one unable to do all that he wants," he said.

"All that we hope is to hear the Palestinian people say one day that Kuwait stood by their side...and this is what will do us honor," he added.

H.H. the amir described the massive anti-Israeli protests which erupted last December 8 as "a genuine Palestinian revolution."

He recalled that he had earlier indicated that this revolution points out that oppression and injustice practised by the occupiers and despair about backing from the Arab nation have together stirred the Palestinian people to revolt.

H.H. the amir also reiterated his firm belief that "this revolution was not planned by any Palestinian group or any Arab state."

He indicated that the heroism of the Palestinians in the occupied territories renders one speechless because each of them is "sacrificing his life and dying more than once in a single day."

Referring to settlement proposals, his highness said those were designed to foil this Palestinian revolution, and stressed such plans "must not dissuade us from supporting the Palestinian people."

Israel was trying to push forward such plans as to thwart the Palestinian uprising, the amir pointed out, but added those proposals would not be easily accepted by the Palestinian people or leadership.

He indicated that if Arabs closed ranks and stood fast in the face of the enemy "we would achieve a lot and shorten the duration of the (Israeli) occupation."

His highness further hoped that Palestinians in the occupied territories would emerge victorious and that "an Arab Palestinian state would be established to stand by the side of its other Arab sisters."

U.S. Diplomatic Initiative in Mideast Viewed

LD031217 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] There is talk about a U.S. campaign or initiative to hold talks which would seek to give the Palestinians more political control in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. This move coincides with the escalation of the Palestinian popular uprising against the Israeli occupation forces, which are using more brutality and ferocity in repressing the Palestinian uprising, indifferent to international public opinion.

The United States has indeed begun its diplomatic initiative and Shultz has said that he soon will send his assistant, Richard Murphy, to the Middle East on a tour to expand these contacts and discussions. Murphy will visit Israel, Jordan, and Egypt; he may also visit Syria and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted] Shultz has met with President Husni Mubarak, who stressed during his visit to Washington last week the need for a rapid move to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shultz informed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday that the disturbances taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have demonstrated that the status quo was no longer an option and that it was time to activate the peace process. [passage omitted]

The international peace conference endorsed by the UN General Assembly is an international request. When the question of convening an international conference was raised before the UN Security Council on the basis that the United Nations must endeavor to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, the U.S. veto was used against a draft resolution regarding this issue.

It is not known how the matter could be set right by the new initiative if the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is ignored. Neither is it known what type of elections supposedly will be held in the occupied territories. Is there anything better, something which truly expresses the will of the Palestinian people, than the resistance against the occupation now taking place in occupied Palestine and the full support given to the Palestinian representativeness embodied in the PLO? If all this is not taken into consideration in any new diplomatic move, then matters undoubtedly will lead once more to the vicious circle which the issue of the abominable Israeli occupation has been in for the last 20 years.

'New' U.S. Peace Plan Based on Camp David

LD032353 Kuwait KUNA in English 1832 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, Feb 3 (KUNA)—Press reports indicated here Wednesday that the proposed new U.S. peace plan calls for Israel and Jordan, working through a shuttling high-level U.S. mediator, to agree by September of this year on limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, with direct negotiations on the final status of the territories to follow in December.

The specifics of the U.S. plan have been the subject of intense speculation here and in the region this week and officials here are stressing that the plan is still in a highly exploratory evolving state and that no predictions can be made at this point about its chances for success.

But officials here are now saying that King Husayn has left the door open for discussions when he met with special presidential envoy Philip Habib on Saturday in Amman while awaiting some kind of Israeli clarifications to points he has raised.

It has now become clear here that the latest initiative is based on the moribund 1978 Camp David plan, but it is being wrapped under a different title and cover.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Briefs Envoys on Palestinians

EA031544 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, met with the ambassadors of West European states and the charges d'affaires of the Indian and Pakistani Embassies in Aden yesterday evening.

At this meeting, the brother foreign minister gave a detailed explanation of the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and Democratic Yemen's policy on the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people and its effects at the Arab and international levels.

The brother minister expressed his thanks for the positions of these states toward what is happening in the occupied Arab territory. He asked for those states' support for the convening of an international conference to resolve the Middle East problem and to establish the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people to determine their own destiny and to set up their independent state.

Nu'man Meets With Visiting DFLP Leader

EA031136 Aden ANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Aden, 2 Feb (ANA)—Comrade Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Comrade Tariq Abu Ziyad, representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), at his office in Aden this morning.

During the meeting, Comrade Tariq Abu Ziyad briefed the prime minister on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. They also discussed relations between the YSP and the DFLP, the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, and ways to strengthen and develop them in the future.

The comrade prime minister praised the current magnificent heroic uprising of the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy aimed at achieving all their legitimate ambitions to return, to self-determination, and to establish a Palestinian state.

In reply Comrade Tariq Abu Ziyad expressed his appreciation for the privileged relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. He also praised the consistent and principled stand of the YSP and the PDRY people in support of the Palestinian people's cause of destiny.

United Arab Emirates

Heir Apparent Receives Japanese Delegation

JN012139 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a written message from Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita dealing with ways to enhance bilateral relations, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, was handed the message this evening when he received Yasotoshi Moras [name as received], head of the Japanese-UAE Friendship Society, and the members of his delegation who represent a number of company directors and economic figures in Japan. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah lauded the strong ties between the UAE and Japan. He pointed to the importance of exchanging visits and meetings on all levels to promote common interests and joint cooperation and to consolidate understanding between the two peoples.

His highness commended the contributions of numerous Japanese companies to the construction of several buildings and the realization of cultural achievements in the UAE. He wished relations between the two countries further progress and prosperity.

Ramadan on UN Resolution, Syrian Policy
JN021706 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
31 Jan 88 p 3

[Article by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister: "The Iraq-Iran War and Suspect Moves"]

[Text] UN Security Council Resolution 598 was issued on 20 July 1987. All 15 members of the UN Security Council agreed to do so. The five permanent members of the Security Council, as well as the other countries, held detailed discussions for many months on the document's formula and provisions before it was released.

The same parties that issued the resolution have described it as the first of its kind to be passed by an international institution such as the Security Council. This is due to its clarity and binding nature, which means that the Security Council is obligated to implement the resolution to end the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with its 10 articles and their sequence.

The war has been going on for more than 7 years. The UN Security Council has issued many resolutions, the first of which came on 28 September 1980. Many local, regional, and international organizations, not to mention countries in and outside the region, have worked to achieve peace. Iran has publicly rejected all these resolutions and efforts. This is explicit and irrefutable proof that Iran is following through on its call to prolong the war. It is putting its expansionist designs into practice, which seek to establish a Persian empire under the cover of exporting the revolution and the velayat-e faqih doctrine. Iran began to implement its policy with its aggression against Iraq, the Arab countries, and the Islamic states, and through its interference in their domestic affairs.

As far as Khomeyni and the other Iranian rulers are concerned, the question is unrelated to the issue of war and peace. It is part of a strategy followed by Iranian leaders from the very moment they assumed power with the help of Zionism and imperialism. What we are presenting is not simply an analysis or personal interpretation that can be debated or discussed. Some may differ with us on this, but it is a reality everyone can sense. It is substantiated by actions on the ground, repeated acts of aggressions, and the statements of Iranian officials. It is no secret. Iranian officials announce it far and wide on every occasion.

Clearly, the international community, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council in particular, are aware of the hostility of Iranian officials. It prompted those countries to step up their efforts, and on 20 July 1987, they issued a binding resolution, Resolution No 598. They had already given the Iranians 7 years to drop their policy of rejecting peace resolutions and to stop their insistence on pursuing the war.

But what has happened to the resolution? What can we say about the statements we hear today, especially those of certain members of the Security Council, who played a leading role in drafting the resolution?

We hear that they want to give the UN secretary general more time so he can convince the parties to reach an agreement. We also hear others asking Iraq and Iran to be more flexible, as that would make it easier to conclude an accord.

We know the objective behind these requests. Those who make such appeals have directed them to Iraq in a bid to have it forfeit its rights and give up its position. These calls are not addressed to both parties, as those making the requests may claim, for everyone knows that Iran is the party that has rejected the resolution. We do not think the members of the Security Council members are that ignorant and are unaware that Iran has rejected the resolution.

Iranian officials, as well as Khomeyni himself, have made statements recently claiming that the future ruler of Iran will be an infidel and an atheist if he stops the aggression against Iraq. Khomeyni said as much in his will. Those remarks, and the Iranian president's speech at the United Nations both followed the passage of Resolution No 598. There has also been a series of aggressions against Iraq since then, and a number of missile attacks on Baghdad. They have mobilized their troops, and Iranian officials have said repeatedly that they will launch a large-scale offensive against Iraq. Kuwaiti facilities have been struck several times since Resolution No 598 was released, and there were also acts of riot, destruction, and conspiracy in Mecca during the pilgrimage, which lead to the deaths of hundreds of innocent people. The waters of the Arabian Gulf were mined, and there were acts of aggression represented by continuing attacks on tankers, acts of piracy, and the searching of tankers and ships. Acts of terrorism occurred in many Arab countries, including Lebanon, Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, and other Arab and Islamic states. All these things took place after Security Council Resolution No 598 was issued. Despite all this, certain respectful countries say there is something new in Iran, which we can deal with and exploit. These countries want Iraq to show flexibility so they can boast about their efforts.

At this point, we ask: What flexibility do they mean? On which paragraph of the 10-paragraph resolution do they want Iraq to be flexible? Did Iraq not approve the 10 paragraphs in their proper sequence?

Is there a position as clear, accurate, and fair as Iraq's? This stand stems from Iraq's respect for its role, responsibility, and position in the international community. We want to ask these countries: When you drafted the resolution, did you slant some or all of its points in Iraq's favor, and do you now want Iraq to show flexibility and surrender what you gave it? What did you give Iraq? Did

you give it the right to some Iranian territory and do you want Iraq to give that up? Did you give Iraq the right to keep a number of Iranian POW's after the war? Did you give Iraq the right to interfere in Iran's internal affairs? Were these rights given to Iraq, and not Iran? If that is so, those who asked Iraq to be flexible should show us the paragraphs that give Iraq rights so Iraq will be flexible and concede them.

However, since that is not the case, and these countries are convinced that Resolution No 598 is fair and balanced, and does not give an advantage to either side in terms of territory, people, POW's, sovereignty, or internal affairs, their calls for flexibility are dirty. That is true if the resolution is fair, comprehensive, and balanced, and because Iraq announced its approval of the resolution a few days after it was issued. Iraq also expressed its honest and sincere readiness to cooperate with the UN secretary general and the Security Council to implement the resolution.

If the appeal for flexibility from Iraq is a clear cover for Iraqi concessions, we would like to ask frankly: What should Iraq concede? Should Iraq give up some of its territory? The soil of our country is the heart of every Iraqi. Should Iraq give up some of its prisoners, so they can remain hostages in Iran when, in fact, each of them is dear to every Iraqi and we can never let them go? Should Iraq give up its sovereignty and allow the Zionist rulers in Tehran to interfere in its internal affairs? Should they give up the first paragraph—the cease-fire—or the second or the third?

We in Iraq know who is making these calls. Some of them want to encroach on Iraq. They do not want to see an Iraqi victory in the war. The appeals from these parties are in harmony with the objectives of the Zionists and Khomeyniites. Others follow this course blindly. We do not want to accuse them of involvement in the conspiracy against Iraq. We hope they will be wiser and more vigilant. We hope they will recognize the true implications of the calls for Iraqi flexibility. After all, Iraq accepted Resolution No 598 while Iran rejected it. As such, these parties must ask Iran to accept the resolution as Iraq did.

Some countries claim that the positions of Iran and Iraq are rigid, implying that their stands on the resolution are the same. These remarks are a prelude to an intentional, preplanned plot, and it makes no difference if these people are willing participants in the conspiracy, or are being forced to take part.

While it is true that the positions of both sides are fixed, they are not the same, as some would have the international community believe. Iraq is rigid in its adherence to Resolution No 598, just as it was formulated and unanimously approved by the Security Council.

Is this rigidity not a positive thing? Does it mean that the Security Council opposes those countries that honor its resolutions? The council wants every state to take a position similar to that of Iraq, so the world body would enjoy prestige, and would have the respect of the international community.

Does Iraq not deserve the thanks of the international community, and of the Security Council in particular, for accepting the resolution? I would go further and ask: Does Iraq or any state that abides by UN Security Council resolutions not merit the international community's support for accepting and expressing its respect for the UN's decisions?

Iran's inflexible position is nothing new. Taken from all angles, the Iranian stand is, in form and content, a rejection of the resolution and an affirmation of a desire to continue escalating the war.

In light of this clear Iranian position, how can any self-respecting state put Iran and Iraq on the same level, and claim that both are inflexible? How can any state say such a thing, any state with an awareness of Iraq's position toward international resolutions and conventions and its acceptance of and commitment to them? Every state should know that Iran rejected Resolution No 598 and earlier resolutions, and spurned attempts at international mediation. That makes it amply clear that Iran has no respect for international public opinion or charters. This, in turn, is an attitude that the countries of the world abandoned long ago. However, despite all these facts, some states continue to demand additional flexibility in dealing with these rejectionists, these scoundrels, in the hope they will improve their position.

It is indeed both strange and surprising that such positions are being taken in the 20th century, and that some demand greater flexibility in dealing with the Iranians, who despise international resolutions and hold them in contempt. Not satisfied with this conduct, the Iranians are blackmailing the world with their terrorist acts. They are kidnapping people of various nationalities, affiliations, and ages, taking them hostage, and demanding the acceptance of Iranian policies in exchange for their release. The Iranians have also continued to strike at important centers and to openly spread destructive ideologies abroad in violation of the sovereignty of many nations.

We would like to ask this honest question of the Security Council and those who call for flexibility: Is this the way to deal with the Iranian regime which, from the moment it took power more than 8 years ago, declared that its policy was to expand and spread control over the countries of the world by force of arms? Is this the way to deal with a regime that has imposed its ideology on the Iranian people by force of arms, and is using the same means to spread terrorism throughout much of the world?

Can this bizarre policy, which contradicts all international laws, resolutions, and values, be opposed by submitting to such Iranian practices? Is it right for any state to give in to Iranian blackmail in exchange for the release of hostages kidnapped by Iran's henchmen? Is it right for any state to submit to Iranian threats against its national interests?

If you can consider such a position by a state regrettable because it involves submission to blackmail, then is it not shameful for the greatest international organization, the Security Council, the goal of which is to spread peace in the world, to be hesitant, to submit to blackmail, and to be manipulated by the devious positions of terrorist Iran?

Amid the conflicting interests of certain foreign countries, there is a move by Syrian officials, a feverish move. These Syrian officials announced they are playing the role of mediator. They do not even call it mediation, but a role to end the Iraq-Iran war. What are the objectives, nature, and results of this move, particularly after 8 years of Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries and after the Amman summit and its four resolutions on the Iraq-Iran war which were signed by Hafiz al-Asad himself?

This is a move toward the flames ignited by the Iranians against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in order to spread confusion in other Arabian Gulf countries. The Syrian officials announced they would mediate between the Arabian Gulf countries and Iran. At the same time, they say Syrian-Iranian relations are strategic and will not be affected by the resolutions of the emergency Amman summit. On several occasions, they made other statements saying that the Amman summit's resolutions would not affect Iraqi-Syrian relations because differences are also strategic. The Syrian officials visit Iran both secretly and publicly, and receive Iranian officials in order to coordinate their positions and to concoct new plots against Iraq and the Arab nation. The Syrian officials appear to have absolute confidence in their Iranian brothers. This Syrian move is a suspect one inwardly and outwardly, and it becomes a new link in the plot against Iraq and the Arab nation and serves the Zionist Khomeyniite plan.

Those who want to resolve any problem should deal with the essence of the problem instead of dealing with the results. Iranian aggression against the Arabian Gulf countries, primarily Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, is one of the results of the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq. We also firmly believe that Iran pursues an expansionist policy against all neighboring Arab countries. Iranian officials themselves say they want to establish a new Persian empire under the pretext of exporting the revolution. The Iranians have been raising this slogan and fighting for several years to achieve this goal.

An ordinary person can detect conspiracy in the new Syrian move because its goal is to isolate the Arabian Gulf countries from Iraq. It is a nasty attempt to separate brothers. No one believes there is a difference between Iran's aggression against Iraq and its aggression against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. No one believes that dividing the Arab front against the Khomeyniite tyranny will end the Iraq-Iran war. No one disputes the fact that only a broad, strong, and unified Arab front will end the war and foil the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries. Iran is the side that began the aggression against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. The reverse is untrue. Are not 8 years enough for the Syrians to understand Iran's aggressive policy? Iran has escalated its aggression, rejected efforts to bring about peace, and rejected all international resolutions issued by the Security Council. Certainly this is enough. The entire world is aware of Iran's aggressive and expansionist policy. The Syrian officials are also aware of this fact. So, why all these maneuvers and deception? Against whom are these plots targetted? No one believes that dividing the Arab sovereignty will end foreign aggression, and no one believes that weakening the Arab solidarity front will end foreign aggression.

It is regrettable that these suspect moves should come after the Amman summit whose resolutions restored the Arab masses' confidence in themselves and in their resources and capabilities. These moves are led by people who cannot live in an Arab atmosphere permeated by a unified Arab position, Arab solidarity, and joint Arab action against the Arabs' enemies. The 2 months that followed the summit were the most difficult period in their lives. To satisfy their desire for treason and to implement their masters' orders, they made several moves aimed at restoring the Arab atmosphere to its presummit phase, adopting a plan to keep the Arab nation divided, and implementing the desires of the Arabs' enemies—Zionists, Khomeyniites, and Arab traitors.

On this occasion, we openly state that even if we tried to forget and even if we did forget their previous shameful stands, we cannot erase them from Arab history books which record both good and bad positions. Good positions cannot be expunged no matter how hard some people might try. Similarly, evil positions and practices cannot be erased no matter how strenuously their perpetrators try to justify them. The reason is that these treasonous positions directly harmed Iraqi and Arab citizens and caused an increase in the bloodshed on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. The Arab traitors and agents contributed to increasing this bloodshed. Every family and each citizen points an accusing finger at the traitors who helped the enemies kill their beloved brothers and sons.

However, the Arab nation and the magnanimous Iraqi Arab people said there is nothing to prevent us from turning a new page that could be the beginning of a new phase beneficial to the Arab nation, strengthening it to

face the aggressive Khomeyniite Zionists as a united nation. Now it appears—and this is only natural—that the brother Syrian officials could not bear the new, positive Arab atmosphere that followed the Amman summit and that encouraged the Arabs to believe this atmosphere would benefit the Arab nation and strengthen its solidarity. Instead of exploiting the new atmosphere, implementing what Hafiz al-Asad signed at the summit, and strengthening the Arab front in facing the aggressive Khomeyniite Zionists, the Syrian brothers, who cannot change their treasonous nature, initiated new moves aimed at destroying the Arab solidarity that was realized at the Amman summit, thus affirming their congenital, incorrigible treachery. They proved they can not rectify their behavior despite an atmosphere that was conducive to such rectification because they are bound by chains of humiliation and because they sold themselves in the markets of ignominy, cowardice, and treason.

Our Iraqi people and the Arab nation's sons would like to tell these agents: No matter how strongly you adhere to the policy of deception, lies, and deviousness, and no matter how skillful you become in your methods of plotting, treachery, and betrayal, our Arab people's awareness has deepened and your scandalous methods will not deceive them. Arab citizens are clever and will not be deceived by your disgraceful methods.

Arab citizens are well aware of the fate of their nation. The living souls and enlightened people who love their nation and its masses, future, existence, and generations will overcome the cowardly, treasonous minds because the wise, sincere, and courageous minds that aspire to Arab greatness, dignity, and victory are more vital and daring than the devious minds that resort to evil and treachery.

Every Arab citizen says to these traitors: enough humiliation and ignominy. Stop your agentry. Stop being captives in the hands of the Arab nation's enemies. Stop wallowing in the quagmire of shame, evil, vice, and lies. You and all those who follow your path should know that the plots being hatched by Zionism and the Arab nation's enemies against Iraq and the Arab countries and whose implementation they have assigned you a direct or indirect role are exposed to the world. Know that you are congenital, incorrigible traitors and that you manifested this treason long ago, even before the glorious 17-30 July 1968 revolution.

O traitors, no matter how expert you are in devising and implementing plots, and no matter how cunning you are in distorting reality, you have, by your new-old methods, become uglier and more detestable in the eyes of every honest Arab. Your methods have exposed your treason and link with the enemies of the Arabs.

Iraq and its great people under the leaderhip of President Saddam Husayn are stronger than anything that has been and is being planned by the Zionists, Khomeyniites, and traitors. All those plans will smashed by the steadfastness, bravery, and power of the sons of great Iraq and their great leader.

The Amman summit has revealed your true nature and false allegations to all the Arab brothers. These days following the Amman summit prove your false, treasonous positions. You should feel shame for not honoring the decisions you signed. Here you are undermining the Arab stand and turning brothers against each other.

Our attitude toward countries that have lost credibility and respect in the international arena and deviated from human principles and international responsibility toward peace, and also toward the suspect moves of the Syrian regime is clear. We are stating our attitude now from the frontline trench of the Iraqi fighter.

All Iraqis, whoever they may be, understand what is meant by the current moves of certain states in the Security Council concerning Resolution No 598 and what the Syrian regime is doing to divide the Arab position.

The Iraqis say: We will close ranks in order to defend Iraq and promote its development and growth. We are stronger than suspect alliances, cheap methods, and opportunistic positions. We are fully aware of the plot and we will destroy it with our own hands.

Plotting against Iraq makes Iraqis even more determined to fight and foil the plot and to build and grow under their great leader Saddam Husayn, the creator of victories and the pioneer of the new Iraqi awakening.

The Iraqis are counting the days, weeks, and months to the end of the war. They work for the distant future by increasing production and maintaining a high level of readiness in order to defend their country.

The war has become a part of the daily life of the Iraqis. They have adjusted to it. They will not tire or become disenchanted. Never. The Iraqis are becoming stronger every year. Their defense capabilities are also becoming increasingly strong in order to inflict heavy losses on the Iranian aggressors.

This 8th year of the war marks Iraqi superiority in politics, economy, arms, and the training of fighters. The Iraqi Air Force reaches the most distant areas in Iran. The Iraqi defenders stand firm along the entire front, while Iran becomes increasingly divided, poor, and starved. The Khomeyniite forces are facing further misery and collapse.

Let those good Arabs who stand by their brother Iraqi fighters with good words and responsible fraternal pan-Arab positions rest assured that the Iraqis, the sons of the great leader Saddam Husayn, will continue to defend faithfully the sovereignty of the Arab territory on the eastern flank, regardless of the sacrifices. Some day the

truth will be known. The Iraqis will continue to believe in the principles of peace. They will continue their peaceful efforts with enthusiasm, earnestness, and sincerity in their love for peace and stability. They will adhere to the humanitarian, pan-Arab principles of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. They will strive to ensure their full legitimate rights as outlined by leader President Saddam Husayn in his 2 August 1986 speech on the five principles. These principles are not subject to change, replacement, or distortion because they are comprehensive, just principles for a total, just peace so that Iraq, Iran, and all of the Arabian Gulf countries, as well as the entire region, can live under the umbrella of peace, love, and good relations.

Syrian Media Campaign Affirms Iran Support

JN031717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—The Syrian regime has reaffirmed its alliance with the Iranian regime against Iraq and pan-Arab security and its refusal to reconsider this alliance.

This came in a statement by a responsible source in the Syrian regime broadcast by Damascus radio and monitored in Baghdad today. The source said: Syria rejects any condemnation of or harm to Iran.

The source claimed that this alliance serves the Arab nation's interest and does not contradict the Amman summit resolutions.

It should be recalled that the Amman summit, whose resolutions were approved by the Syrian regime, condemned the Iranian regime's aggressions against Iraq and the Arab Gulf countries and its interference in the internal affairs of these states.

Hasan 'Ali Condemns Syria's 'Suspect Role'

JN032102 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Progressive National and Patriotic Front has condemned the Syrian regime's suspect move which confirms its strategic alliance with the Iranian regime, the enemy of the Arabs and Muslims. The Front appealed to the Arab masses—parties and organizations—to expose and condemn this sabotage against the Arab nation and its unity. Moreover, the Front also asks the Arab masses to confront any treachery attempting to help the Iranian regime continue its aggression against Iraq and its threats and extortion of the Arab nation.

In a statement to Baghdad radio, Comrade Hasan 'Ali, a member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front, said the recent statements and suspect moves of the Syrian regime's officials affirm that its apparent stand at the Amman summit was simply a maneuver used to serve schemes hostile to our nation. Comrade Hasan 'Ali affirmed that the entire world and the Arab nation, which supports Iraq's desire to end the war and establish peace in the region, were surprised by the Syrian regime's suspect moves aimed at spliting Arab unity, undermining Arab solidarity, and giving the Iranian enemy an opportunity to attack Arab countries one after the other to achieve its dreams of establishing a Persian empire.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member affirmed that the Syrian regime's suspect role, which is rejected by the Arabs and is being publicized, did not deceive Arab citizens who discovered with their awareness, vigilance, and analysis of political events this regime's sabotage objectives, dangerous trends, and endeavors to return the Arab situation to the pre-Amman summit situation. Comrade Hasan 'Ali explained that more than 7 years of heroic confrontation by our people against the Zionist-Iranian aggression had made our people stronger, more capable, and more determined to crush any treacherous plot or cowardly aggression against the security of Iraq and the Arab nation.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Scores Syrian Statement

JN040840 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—Today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH strongly assails the Syrian regime. It says this regime is an ally of Iran in its war against Iraq and claims that this alliance does not contradict the Amman summit resolutions.

Today's editorial comments on a statement made by an official Syrian source yesterday. The paper says: The Syrian regime deliberately ignores the direct aggressive Iranian practices, as well as the impudent threats the Tehran rulers continuously level against Iraq, the Arabian Gulf states, and the Arab nation. The paper adds that the Damascus regime is once again playing the worn-out record it has played throughout the years of the Iranian aggression against both Iraq and the Arab nation. In addition to its disgraceful commitment to the strategic alliance with the aggressive Iranian regime, the Damascus regime this time rejects any condemnation of or harm to Iran, the paper said.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the official Syrian source reiterated remarks made by the Syrian regime's foreign minister during a recent visit to Tehran about Syrian eagerness to keep the war an Iraqi-Iranian war so that it will not expand into an Arab-Iranian war. The paper affirmed that the Damascus regime sees an Arab interest in the Iranian aggressiveness and in the threats being leveled from Tehran. Moreover, this regime places its views, which conflict with the Arab nation's genuine stand, above obvious facts. It also persists in its alliance for evil and aggressive purposes and encourages the Iranian rulers to continue war, just as the Zionists are publicly doing.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Arab Amman summit resolutions are clear in their condemnation of the Iranian aggression against both Iraq and the Arab countries and in calling for genuine Arab solidarity against this aggression in accordance with provisions which are specified in both the Arab League Charter and the collective Arab defense pact. It adds that the Damascus regime's concept about the Arab interest also prompts that regime to stand against the PLO, against the Palestinian Arab people's struggle, and against the Arab people in Lebanon. Moreover, the pan-Arab interest, as viewed by the Damascus regime, permits the Tehran rulers to shed Iraqi blood and that of the honorable Arabs in order not to spoil the relationship between Syria and Iran.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Damascus rulers close their ears and imagine they can place their wretched views, which completely contradict the Iraqis' stand against the Iranian aggressiveness, above realities. It stresses that the Iraqis' willpower, which is based on awareness, faith, confidence, and resources, will remain the spearhead of the glorious Arab nation in confronting and crushing the Iranian aggression. This willpower will continue to be a source of scandal for the Damascus regime on all levels, primarily the level of genuine stands, sincere willpower, and effective action against the aggression. The paper affirms that Iraq will continue to be a source of terror for the Damascus rulers as it has for both the Khomeyniites and the Zionists through the unified Iraqi position and also through the mutual confidence between the Iraqis and their leadership and through the Iraqis' profound love for their victorious leader Saddam Husayn.

Ramadan Receives USSR's Pallayev, Delegation

JN031623 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and his accompanying delegation.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed to the guest delegation that Iraq has accepted all resolutions to establish peace based on its peaceful principles and responsibility toward its people and the international community. He added that Iraq adheres to Resolution 598 and rejects any change in its 10 clauses.

He said that the Iraqi Armed Forces under President Saddam Husayn are capable of making the aggressors accept peace by force.

The deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium expressed the Soviet Union's appreciation for Iraq's peaceful stands and acceptance of Resolution 598 which was issued unanimously by the UN Security Council members.

The two officials discussed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the advanced stage of these relations. They also stressed the resolve of officials of both countries to continue to expand and promote these relations in all fields in order to serve the joint interests of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab and International Relations Committee in the National Assembly and the Soviet ambassador to Baghdad.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Official Moscow Visit

JN030833 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has returned to Baghdad following an official 2-day visit to the USSR. Tariq 'Aziz met with USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Ryzhkov and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday. They discussed bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war developments, the situation in the Arabian Gulf region and the Middle East, and current international issues.

Earlier, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister met with heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Moscow and stressed to them the firmness of the military situation on the war fronts and the Iraqi Army's readiness to crush any aggressive Iranian adventure.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Helicopter Downing Denied

JN031817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1752 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims on downing a helicopter gunship yesterday. A military spokesman told INA today that what Iran said in its military communique last night on downing the helicopter is sheer fabrication.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN040634 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0624 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Statement by an Iraqi military spokesman dated 4 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force continues to deprive the criminal Iranian regime of the oil supplies whose revenues are used to finance attacks on our country. At 2105 [1805 GMT] yesterday, our rapacious hawks launched an air raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After dealing it an accurate, effective blow, the hawks returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 4 February 1988

Iranian Missile Battery Raided

JN041241 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1228 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 4 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of our gigantic Air Force's heroic efforts to crush the aggression, and in defiance of the enemy—particularly its air defenses—by our rapacious, valiant hawks, a devastating blow was dealt to a surface-to-air missile battery at 1230 [0930 GMT] today. All day today, the planes of our heroic Air Force launched a series of raids on the enemy's artillery positions and its scoundrels' concentrations, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. After carrying out all these duties, all our planes returned safely and triumphantly to base in God's care.

[Dated] 4 February 1988

Communique No 3,008

JN031739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,008 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Under the leadership of the builder of the glory of modern Iraq and the engineer of its victories, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, Iraq will remain proud, strong, and lofty. Its victorious forces will continue to be enlightened by the values and principles of Iraq and to confront the forces of aggression until a final victory is achieved against our enemies, with God's help. The following are the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed seven enemy personnel and injured others. They also destroyed two vehicles and blew up one ammunition dump.

2. Two rogues were killed and one infantry position and one weapons emplacement were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. One enemy soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Units from our formation in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan attacked groups of enemy personnel. They managed to kill a number of the rogues and to injure others. Elsewhere in the same sector, three enemy personnel were killed.

5. One large vehicle was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps east of the Tigris.

6. One enemy boat, two weapons emplacements, one infantry position, and one observation post were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 3 February 1988

2 Soldiers Killed in 'Terrorist' Clash in North

TA041314 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] The following is the IDF spokesman's announcement:

Two IDF soldiers were killed and another was wounded in a clash between an IDF force and a terrorist squad attempting to infiltrate Israeli territory in the Galilee panhandle. The families of the dead soldiers have been notified.

A terrorist was killed and another captured in the clash. At nearly 0400 [0200 GMT] this morning an IDF patrol travelling on the security road in the Galilee panhandle encountered a terrorist squad attempting to enter Israeli territory. An IDF soldier was killed and two others were wounded in the exchange of fire.

Later, at noon, one of the wounded soldiers died. The soldiers captured one terrorist and launched a pursuit, in the course of which another terrorist was killed. The terrorists were found in possession of personal arms, LAW [light antitank weapon] missiles. The terrorists' mission was to carry out an action directed at a civilian target which could be used for bargaining purposes.

Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, adds that upon learning of the squad's infiltration into Israel, a state of very high alert was immediately declared in Qiryat Shemona and in the Galilee panhandle settlements. The entire region was closed off, and workers were not allowed to leave for their places of employment until after 0700 [0500 GMT] when it was learned that the battle was over.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron says there is a link between incidents in the territories in recent weeks and the fact that Palestinian terrorists are trying to infiltrate Israeli territory for the perpetration of terrorist acts. In a talk with our correspondent Menahem Horowitz, the chief of staff emphasized that the IDF soldiers acted swiftly and determinedly, and prevented the penetration of the terrorists into one of the settlements.

Katyusha Lands in Galilee; No Injuries, Damage

TA040539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] A Katyusha rocket was fired from Lebanon toward the Galilee panhandle yesterday. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the 122-mm rocket was fired from a position north of the security zone.

Husayn Allegedly To Forgo International Opening

TA040543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering yesterday briefed the prime minister and the foreign minister on King Husayn's position regarding the U.S. initiative. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that King Husayn is willing to accept autonomy as a temporary short-term arrangement, while continuing to look into the nature of a permanent settlement. Jerusalem got the impression that Husayn is also willing to forgo his demand for an international opening to the process.

Peres Views Jordan's Stand, 'Deportee Vessel'

TA040949 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Jordan has not changed its position and is still unwilling to negotiate with Israel without an international opening. Peres added that no Arab country will accept the Likud platform, and it is impossible to make peace on the basis of that platform.

Regarding the deportee vessel the PLO intends to sail from Greece to Israel, Peres had the following to say:

[Begin recording] [Peres] According to our information, the PLO has coordinated this with the Greek Government, and we consider the Greek Government's agreement an unfriendly act.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think Israel will be able to stand up to world public opinion regarding the Palestinian vessel?

[Peres] Israel can defend its interests and its image. [end recording]

The foreign minister made these remarks to correspondents during a visit to a Bezeq telephone exchange in Tel Aviv.

Shamir Says U.S. Examining Ideas for Peace Plan

TA031320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister says that the United States is merely examining ideas and slivers of plans but that currently there are no negotiations on a new peace plan. Mr Shamir says there is no doubt in his mind that additional settlements will be established in the territories, and promised to take a favorable view of proposals to set up new settlements soon in areas over which there is no dispute between the two large political blocs.

Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that the prime minister speaking in the settlement of Nili in Samaria and repeated this in a meeting with leaders of Gush Emunim's settlement movement.

All Parties Seen Shunning Shultz Initiative

TA031414 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "A Total Withdrawal"]

[Text] The goal here is not a withdrawal from the territories. Even Shultz' initiative speaks only of a phased withdrawal due to begin next October.

The goal here is a total withdrawal from the initiative itself.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has withdrawn from it under the pressure of Sharon, Levi, and Gush Emunim. Peres has welcomed it only half-heartedly because he is committed to the international conference and does not believe in the autonomy as seen by the Likud.

Husayn wants a conference that would lead to Reagan's plan. The same holds true about Mubarak and the Soviet Union, which has been encouraging the PLO to stoke the uprising further.

This cold shower was enough to convince Shultz, the author of the initiative, to go back on his intention to come to the area on a shuttle mission. He would like to reap some fruit. The dull work he leaves to his messenger, Richard Murphy, in the hope of attaining the very least: restoring calm in the territories in exchange for some interim measures acceptable to all the parties concerned.

This minimum, however, is also still uncertain.

Shamir Claims Unrest Not Linked to Peace Process

TA041204 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami "following Shamir's visit to the Gaza Strip today"—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr prime minister, this is your first visit to the Gaza Strip since the riots began. What are your impressions following your tour of the city and the refugee camps?

[Shamir] Well, I mainly visited with and listened to the IDF soldiers. I do not have to tell you that I was extremely encouraged. I would very much like to convey my impressions to all my friends, including the leading bodies in Israel. This should greatly help us in making decisions and directing our actions. I also saw something of the refugee camps. I saw the difficult conditions under which people are living. I also saw the complete calm and security prevailing there at present thanks to the IDF's actions. This proves that we can proceed today without feeling under pressure.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, nonetheless, the territories are not calm. Do you believe that the movement toward some kind of political process is causing the continuation of the disturbances?

[Shamir] I do not see any connection between the movement toward any kind of political process and the disturbances and riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In any event, we will make sure that there is no connection between these two things. We must act always, and during these times as well, work toward peaceful solutions.

[Ben-'Ami] Following your talk with Ambassador Pickering yesterday, do you think the U.S. initiative is gaining momentum?

[Shamir] I have many meetings with Ambassador Pickering, and if every meeting had to bring about a new opening, we would be moving through some kind of maze. This was a routine working meeting, and no revolutionary importance should be attributed to it.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, a PLO vessel is scheduled to sail from Greece toward our coast. Have we already consolidated our position on how to deal with this vessel?

[Shamir] Generally speaking, we know that this is one of the hostile acts in the wave of activities meant to attack and weaken Israel. Whether we have made a decision or not, it is preferable that we not discuss it.

Rabin Interviewed on Territories, PLO Vessel

TA040624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami in the studio—live]

[Text] [Golan] There is a feeling of an escalation in the events in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Is this true, and if so, why?

[Rabin] Since the beginning of the week we have indeed witnessed several incidents in densely populated Arab areas, mainly in Nabulus and in the area of Tulkarm yesterday, as well as in other areas such as 'Anabta, Bani Na'im, and other places. Of course there are also incidents in which stones and Molotov cocktails are thrown on the roads.

[Golan] Mr Minister, can you analyze the causes of this escalation? How is it that even with the political contacts on the one hand and the IDF's iron fist policy on the other, the territories are still not calm?

[Rabin] It should be noted that we have attained relative calm in the Gaza area. We have still not attained this in Judaea and Samaria, and we will act until calm is attained.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, can you explain why the Gaza Strip has calmed down, whereas the...

[Rabin, interrupting] Look, there were times when there was more activity in the Gaza Strip than in Judaea and Samaria. We must understand that the population has new methods of confrontation, mainly by means of tough and extremist nuclei which enjoy the support of a large part of the Arab population in the territories.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, do you share the opinion of those who say that the PLO is again fermenting the riots because King Husayn has joined the political move, the U.S. initiative?

[Rabin] I think it is incorrect to say that there is only one reason for this or that development. The background to the events goes back several months. This is a new kind of challenge for us, but I believe we have found the way to deal with the situation. However, this requires time, patience, and composure.

[Golan] Mr Rabin, how is Israel preparing to receive the PLO deportee vessel. Last night we heard that the Greek Government does not intend to prevent the departure of the vessel. Will Israel permit it to anchor?

[Rabin] At this point, I will not say what we intend to do. The PLO and those helping it aim to create a media event, and we will do our best to prevent them from achieving this.

[Golan] Will you prevent the ship from entering Israel's territorial waters?

[Rabin] I will not say what we will do.

[Golan] Mr Minister, various groups are preparing to receive this vessel here in Israel. Some are for it and others against it. We heard reports, for example, that Kahane and other bodies intend to demonstrate against the vessel, whereas a group of writers, journalists, and poets is preparing a warm reception for it.

[Rabin] Both groups are to be deplored. It is obvious that the PLO's main intention is to act against Israel, and we must act accordingly.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, I would like to ask you about the Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria. Yesterday, after an argument you had with Minister Yosef Shapira, you termed them a burden. Are they really a burden, from your point of view?

[Rabin] I did indeed make these remarks, being aware that the security forces—the IDF, the Border Police, and the other security forces—and I myself as defense minister are responsible for the security of all the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, both Jewish and Arab.

These remarks were made in a certain context and against a certain background. The context was the outburst of a minister following the Cabinet session, using words I would not like to repeat here against the IDF and the way it carries out its difficult mission in Judaea and Samaria. I thought that in light of the threats made by that minister—apparently in the name of the settlers—the circumstances had to be made clear. The statement I made—and I did make this statement—in no way makes light of the situation or diminishes my responsibility as defense minister or that of the IDF and the other security forces to restore calm in the territories.

The background to the situation is simple: At present, most of the Palestinian activity in the territories is violent in nature and is centered in their own towns and, to a lesser degree, on the many roads in Judaea and Samaria, and there is a struggle for control of the area. Therefore most of the IDF units are allocated to dealing with this problem while striving to keep the traffic arteries open. The only harm to the settlers in the territories is in their travel on the roads.

All I said was that this part of the IDF's mission is indeed a heavy burden, and that it is advisable that at this time the settlers evince both restraint and understanding and refrain from making any threats. I mentioned the northern settlements as a positive example of perseverance. Only this morning you broadcast a report on yet another Katyusha rocket and on how the residents there cope with the searches in the area.

Rabin on Leadership, Solution

TA041221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that Palestinian terror organizations have lately been operating from Lebanon. On the other hand, the violent activity in the territories is initiated by the local residents themselves. Minister Rabin was speaking today in a United Kibbutz Movement debate on the situation in the territories, and our correspondent Dan Eshel brings his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] We have found ourselves in an uneasy reality for about 2 months now. On the one hand, there is violent activity initiated by the residents of the territories.

[Rabin] On the other hand, the Palestinian terror organizations—whose main method of operation since their inception has been terrorism or what they term armed struggle—have been exerting tremendous efforts from the direction of Lebanon.

[Eshel] The solution to the problem in the territories does not culminate in securing calm there, the defense minister says. The solution lies solely in the political process.

[Rabin] I welcome the fact that the United States has taken initiatives or an initiative, and I greatly hope that Jordan and Israel will respond positively to this. I think it is our duty, on the basis of our positions, to seek ways whereby this initiative will indeed develop and materialize.

[Eshel] The main point, Rabin says, is not to define the solution. The main goal should be to launch a dialogue.

[Rabin] Let it be negotiations with Jordan, Palestinians, and Egypt on the basis of a permanent solution, or the beginning of a dialogue on a transitional period or interim arrangements. It is clear that progress should somehow be made, and as part of the permanent solution. In my opinion, the main problem lies in the political sphere, where the key to the solution of the problem rests, while at the same time dealing with and containing the violence so that it does not run rampant in the territories.

[Eshel] In the ensuing discussion on the policy of beatings, one of the participants stated that the beatings are actually killing our soldiers' spirit. Yitzhaq Rabin believes this is exaggerated. As for another participant who read out a soldier's letter describing a beating used as an act of punishment, Rabin asked for the details on the incident and said he will deal with it. [end recording]

Mitzna' Describes IDF Policy Toward Settlers

TA031559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has said the IDF expects settlers in Judaea and Samaria to let it do its job in this period of pressure. The Army will also deal with Jews who violate the law, but it would be a shame to assign troops to such a mission, Major General Mitzna' said.

In reply to a question by our correspondent Arye Gus about the complaints of settlers in the territories, the commander of the Central Command said that an immediate solution cannot be supplied everywhere and every minute. He stressed that the IDF would not allow anybody to do the job in its place. Maj Gen Mitzna' was speaking to our correspondent while accompanying the defense minister on a tour of Judaea and Samaria.

Minister Rabin told our correspondent that curfews would be imposed wherever necessary and that the curfew in Nabulus would remain in force as long as it was required. He refused to reply to a question by our correspondent about his remarks that Jewish settlers in the territories are a burden.

IDF's Mordekhay Confirms Palestinians Armed

TA040719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF Southern Command, by Moti Amir; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Amir] Gen Mordekhay, is it possible to say that tempers have calmed down in the Gaza Strip?

[Mordekhay] Over the past 3 weeks there has been relative calm and security in the Gaza Strip. We realize, however, that this is only superficial, and that under the surface there are recurring attempts to disrupt daily life. Over the past few weeks we have been confronting local problems and we have sufficient forces and methods to handle them.

Our policy is to preempt attempts at disturbances or to act promptly when they occur, while at the same time dealing with all other aspects of daily life in order to restore a normal routine as soon as possible. In most areas this is more or less the case, except for commerce. In the past few days there were recurring attempts to disrupt commercial life, even to the point of paralyzing it in several places. We need an extended period of calm. Until we achieve this, the situation will remain delicate and can change rapidly.

[Amir] Sir, there are intelligence assessments that the Gaza Strip residents have firearms, and it is feared that perhaps they will use the weapons and explosives when they find it convenient.

[Mordekhay] There have already been such attempts. There is no doubt that the territories residents possess weapons, and we must be prepared for the possibility that they will be used against our forces. Anyone who tries to use weapons or to perpetrate acts of terror against us must realize that our reaction to this—as in the past—will be clear and unequivocal.

[Amir] How do we confront situations which may slowly rekindle the area?

[Mordekhay] We must act soberly and calmly and see the situation clearly. This means that we must act quickly and firmly when we perceive events that might turn into serious disturbances. When faced with attempts to burn tires, throw stones, or erect roadblocks—and there have been very few such attempts in the Gaza Strip recently—our forces arrive at the scene and remove the roadblocks and the burning tires. If some people try to throw stones or to provoke a confrontation, the forces disperse them. If they do not disperse, the forces then use the means at their disposal, including force. The standing orders prohibit hitting anybody once the disturbances are over.

IDF Denies Dumdum Bullets Used To Quell Unrest
TA031515 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Feb 88 p 3

[Report by Yaron Zelig]

[Excerpts] "Many physicians in the Gaza Strip have complained to us that some of the wounded brought to hospitals in the area had been hit by dumdum bullets, which are banned by international law.

"We did not see the bullets, but the physicians showed us X-rays and argued that the wounds seen in them indicate that this type of bullet had been used. We were also told that more than 70 pregnant women exposed to tear gas had had miscarriages and abortions." This was stated yesterday by (Jurgen Meyer), a member of the German Greens Party Central Committee, in a news conference held in Tel Aviv at the end of a 1-week tour of the territories. [passage omitted]

Reacting to this report, the IDF spokesman said last night that the IDF had never used dumdum bullets and does not know of any cases of pregnant women miscarrying because of tear gas.

IDF Officer Suspended After Shooting Incident
TA041130 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpt] An IDF officer who opened fire in the territories contrary to regulations has been suspended from his duties. The incident took place yesterday, during disturbances in the village of Silwad. [passage omitted]

High Court Seeks Cause for AL-QUDS Ban
TA031329 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The High Court of Justice has instructed the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration to show cause within a few days why he would not shorten the period in which the ban on the distribution of AL-QUDS in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is in effect.

Yig'al Koenig, the correspondent for the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language department, reports that 15 days ago the head of the Civilian Administration forbade the distribution of the newspaper in the territories for 45 days, after the newspaper published a report that it failed to submit to the censorship for approval beforehand.

Rival Groups Seek To Influence Palestinians
TA032115 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] The PLO is trying to enhance its ability to steer the actions of the territories' inhabitants in anticipation of the next stage. Even now the PLO does not control events. Numerous pamphlets currently being distributed in the territories clearly show that along with the agreement among various elements about the need to go on with the commercial strikes and demonstrations, blatant differences have already emerged over the methods and objectives. These are some of the pamphlets being disseminated in the area. Most of them are computer printouts.

The differences are reflected, to cite an example, in what is being perceived as the key issue: the distress of businessmen in light of the prolonged strike.

The religious bodies are taking a rigid position in favor of an unrelenting full strike, while the bodies identified with the PLO are now looking for an agreement that would allow shops to open for a few hours every day.

The pamphlets of the left aim at forcing the wealthy to make donations.

As for Arabs working in Israel, some pamphlets propose that they be allowed to go back to their jobs for an interval, as they put it, during which they will regroup and prepare for a resumption of the riots.

The PLO is having a hard time trying to get the population to heed the calls of its men because of the vast number of conflicting pamphlets. For example, Fatah pamphlets say people should under no circumstances listen to Palestinian broadcasts from Syria which have been issuing conflicting instructions.

PLO bodies are now urging attacks against Jordanian loyalists, and call on the people to burn issues of the newspaper AL-NAHAR, which is identified with Jordan, and to punish collaborators. Other bodies are apparently apprehensive about internal vendettas.

Of course, the main dispute plaguing the ranks of the organizers of the riots revolves around the political issue.

Islamic Jihad pamphlets in the Gaza Strip write: The soldiers are tired and want to leave. We must go to the bitter end and demand the whole of Palestine right now.

Pamphlets of the left have come out against the PLO's backing of Hanna Sinyurah's trip to Washington, saying it degrades the revolt.

In contrast, in a pamphlet entitled The Palestinian Resistance, the religious bodies have come out sharply against the notion of an international conference which, as is known, is advocated by Yasir 'Arafat.

In brief, the situation can aptly be described as one of differences regarding both methods and objectives. What matters at present, however, are the calls to continue.

The PLO urges people to burn value added tax books, the religious bodies spread inflammatory stories in their pamphlets about punishments that never took place, while the left proposes that people should start stocking up on food.

PLO, Islamic Jihad Behind 'Local Committees'

TA031144 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

["Analysis" by Yehuda Litani: "Protest in Territories is Led by Local Committees"]

[Text] Both Palestinian and Israeli sources agree that the momentum of the disturbances is being preserved by local committees in towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza, and not by "regional committees."

Since the end of December, leaflets have been distributed by the United Leadership of the National Committee in the Gaza Strip and the National Unity Committee for the Uprising in the Territories, calling for continued strikes and demonstrations, as well as a tax revolt.

The leaflets also name "collaborators" and urge protests at mosques and churches. Islamic terminology is used in the Gaza leaflets, while PLO terminology is used in those of the National Unity committee.

But according to the sources, the committees' activities are limited. Daily decisions are made by the local committees. The sources doubt reports that the National Unity Committee has been coordinating the uprising for the last month or so. They say that if the committee exists at all, it is only as a name on the leaflets.

Nonetheless, some Palestinians maintain that there is such a body, and even describe its composition: 15 members, three each from the major PLO factions (Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party), and the Islamic Jihad.

But according to a member of a PLO faction in the territories, the so-called regional committees are mere inventions by Fatah (in the West Bank) and Islamic Jihad (in Gaza). "I think that the contents of the leaflets in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are dictated by telephone from Tunis," he said. Fatah has been trying to climb on the bandwagon for the last two months, pretending that it is the real leader of the uprising. But the truth, he said, is that neither Fatah nor any other organization is leading the uprising, which is spontaneous development from within.

A knowledgeable Israeli official said yesterday that "the local committees operate in each town, village or refugee camp without being aware of what the other local committees are doing. For instance, the riots and commercial strikes in the Nabulus area during the last three days were orchestrated by between 15 and 18 committees in the immediate vicinity. (There is a separate committee for each neighbourhood, and some camps have several committees.) There was almost no consultation with outside bodies."

It is clear, however, that the local commitees' activities cannot continue for much longer without regional (West Bank or Gaza) coordination since the inhabitants are on the brink of exhaustion.

PLO Directs Jerusalem Merchants To End Strike

TA031130 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Feb 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Andy Court]

[Excerpt] Anyone driving through East Jerusalem yesterday between 3 and 6 p.m. would have witnessed an unusual sight: streets full of open, lighted shops, ready to do business.

The commercial strike that has gripped East Jerusalem for 24 consecutive days (and over 50 days intermittently) has not come to an end, but the local leadership of the Palestinian uprising has decided to give the city's beleaguered merchants some respite.

The shopkeepers can now open for three hours from 3 p.m., at least for the time being.

The same situation prevails in the West Bank, though the times are different. Nabulus merchants can open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.; Ramallah merchants from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Tulkarm merchants from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, a Palestinian source said.

East Jerusalem merchants first received permission to open their stores for a few hours each afternoon through leaflets put out by the PLO's secret steering committee last Thursday. But only in the past day or two has the practice caught on, East Jerusalem merchants said yesterday.

Meanwhile, merchants from Ramallah and Al-Birah who called a press conference at the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem yesterday said that their commercial strike would not completely end until the government meets six demands.

The demands include convening of an international conference with PLO participation; putting an end to deportations and administrative detentions; freeing all those arrested during the recent unrest; and abolishing the taxes that merchants in the territories must now pay. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Not To Use Weapons Against IDF

TA031258 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] The Palestinians in the territories are determined to abstain from using weapons in their possession against IDF soldiers.

The initiative not to use weapons is interpreted as an assessment on their part that the use of mines and roadside bombs at this stage is liable to make it easier for the IDF to suppress the uprising. It could also impair the excellent public relations the Palestinians enjoy throughout the world.

More on Continuing Disturbances in Territories

2 Dura Residents Injured

TA031216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Two residents of Dura, located south of Hebron, were slightly injured by IDF fire that followed a violent disturbance in the village. Some of the rioters have been detained.

'Dozens' Riot in Silwad

TA031313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Three residents of the village of Silwad near Ramallah were slightly wounded in their legs by shots fired by IDF soldiers. Our correspondent was told that dozens of youths rioted in town, refusing to disperse even after rubber bullets and tear gas canisters were fired at them, at which point warning shots were fired. The soldiers then directed their fire at the rioters' feet.

W. Bank Schools To Close

TA031314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] All educational institutions in Judaea and Samaria will be shut down until further notice. The Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration has told our correspondent Moti Amir that the decision to open the regional schools on time was made for the benefit of the pupils, but studies were disrupted in many institutions, prompting the decision to close them.

Curfew in Tulkarm 3 Feb

TA031818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on Tulkarm following wide-scale disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the riots began at sunset after rumors spread in the town that settlers had kidnapped a child and shattered windows. From mosque steeples, unidentified people called on the residents to take to the streets. Security forces used tear gas and shot rubber bullets to disperse the rioters.

In two other incidents today, six inhabitants of the territories sustained light wounds in the legs from shots fired by IDF soldiers. Curfews remain in force in nine locations in Judaea and Samaria, including Nabulus.

Youth Dies of IDF Wounds

TA032038 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The youth who was wounded this evening while a demonstration in Tulkarm was being dispersed has died of his wounds. The youth was shot after he tried to attack an IDF officer.

Incidents in Burqa', Balatah

TA041029 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] The curfew was intermittently lifted in several places in Nabulus today to enable the residents to purchase food. Nabulus is calm today, but a riot broke out in the Balatah refugee camp and the curfew there has been reimposed.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that it was learned today that three people were wounded in yesterday's disturbances in the Samaria village of Burqa'. Among the three is a 10-year-old boy. Security sources told our correspondent that an IDF unit had been sent to disperse dozens of residents who blocked the road. The villagers attacked the soldiers, and their officer was forced to fire two shots. The boy was wounded by a ricochet.

Early this morning an Israeli minibus which came to pick up workers from the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was set on fire. Only a few workers from the Khan Yunus area left for work in Israel this morning. Workers left from Rafah and Gaza without any interference. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that studies in the Gaza Strip are proceeding normally today, except for one case in which youths entered a Gaza school and forced the students to participate in a demonstration.

There were disturbances north of Jerusalem today. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that stones were thrown at passing vehicles at the Coca-Cola junction, near 'Anatot. A police force arrived at the scene and used tear gas to disperse the stone throwers.

Stones were thrown at a no 25. bus near Shu'fat. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. Another bus was stoned near Bayt Hanina. Its windshield was smashed but there were no injuries.

IDF Studies Effects of Service in Territories

TA040831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] If the IDF soldiers continue to carry out their present duties in the territories, their behavior patterns will be affected. This is the main conclusion of a report prepared by the IDF's behavioral sciences department on the psychological effects of service in the territories on IDF soldiers.

Senior IDF officers, however, told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that they cannot discern a psychological problem for soldiers in handling their duties in the territories. These officers downplay the importance of psychological work with soldiers and emphasize the importance of the contribution of the direct officers in bolstering the soldiers' morale.

Levi, Sharon Stymie Shamir 'Flexibility'

TA021241 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Shamir Will Retreat"]

[Text] The countercoalition formed by David Levi and Ari'el Sharon, which broke up with the collapse of the first session of the Herut Convention in March 1986, has been reestablished ad hoc. As soon as he tried to display a certain degree of tactical flexibility in his message to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the autonomy plan, Yitzhaq Shamir was viciously attacked by the two watchdogs of the Camp David Accords: Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon and his assistant, David Levi.

As they see it, there should be no digression whatsoever, not even by one iota, from the sacred Camp David Accords which were signed in 1978 and which, contrary to what Shamir has been saying, are definitely unsuitable to today's reality. Although our coffers are empty, the territories are in turmoil, and the security forces are courageously trying to contain the fire, Sharon and Levi have produced the magic cure: a settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This solution may work in party rallies, but it might stoke the fire in the territories.

At present, the chances of establishing new settlements are almost nil. The Alignment will take advantage of its equal say in the Cabinet to strike the issue off the agenda. What Sharon and Levi have in mind, however, are the 2,000 members of the Herut Central Committee.

Elections are in the offing, and Levi and Sharon have not yet given up on the idea of contesting Shamir. They will therefore automatically depict any expression of tactical flexibility on Shamir's part as a sign of weakness.

In conclusion, the looming shadow cast by Sharon and Levi will most probably force Shamir to back down on any attempt, whether real or imaginary, to evince political flexibility.

Shamir Affirms No Differences in Likud Stand

TA032058 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister today described the latest political moves as explorations by the United States and fragments of U.S. plans aimed at attaining a plan of action to bring peace closer. As of yet there can be no talk about negotiations, Yitzhaq Shamir said. He was speaking at a tree-planting ceremony in the settlement of Nili in the Modi'in Bloc. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports:

[Begin recording] [Goren] The settlers of Nili in southwest Samaria, who have also been affected recently by the prolonged wave of unrest, had a few hours of satisfaction today. On the occasion of Arbor Day, the prime minister chose Nili as the forum from which he would signal his political intentions in view of recent political developments that have aroused great curiosity and given way to numerous interpretations. Worried settlement leaders also came here to get a firsthand report on what lies behind the recent political moves.

The tree planted in Samaria, the prime minister told journalists from all over the world, is meant to demonstrate that settlements in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan Heights will continue to exist and become stronger, and that we will also add new settlements this year.

Yitzhaq Shamir seized the occasion to pour cold water on all those who hastened to reach conclusions about his intentions to enter an accelerated political process conducive to restoring calm in the territories.

[Shamir] I understand that the U.S. Administration is working on various ideas. We have proposals of our own, and I have discussed them with Secretary Shultz and his aides on more than one occasion. I think the best way will be to conduct negotiations on ways to attain peace in our region, following the course set in the Camp David Accords.

[Goren] Sir, in the last few day there has been criticism in the Likud over the fact that the senior level was not included in the decision-making process. Some have even expressed the fear that you are going to deviate from the government's basic guidelines and go too far in the political process.

[Shamir] There are no differences of opinion in the Likud, on any level whatsoever. There is unanimity and cooperation, and colleagues are being updated on the situation. I am looking ahead with confidence.

[Goren] Sir, how do you assess the chances of the moves that have begun in the last few days? Is the time propitious now and is there a real chance of promoting the process this time?

[Shamir] I hope everything we are doing and will be doing in the coming weeks and months will bring peace closer.

[Goren] As far as you are concerned, is the situation in the territories in the last 2 months a reason to accelerate the process?

[Shamir] Look, the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza worries us. This situation cannot continue and ways must be found to put an end to it. But we will not be able to do so through the talks being conducted today.

[Goren] Thank you, sir. [end recording]

Peres Urges Labor To Adopt Constructive Stand

TA031505 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
3 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday called on his party to adopt a constructive attitude to help advance the political initiative since the status quo would in the long run be a demographic catastrophe and a grave security problem.

"It is not that the IDF cannot control the disturbances, but that those who explain Israel's policy cannot compete with what is seen on television screens."

He called the settlements and annexation suicidal and a barrier to any chances for peace, and added: "I call on the Labor Party to declare that we will support any peace initiative, any initiative for negotiations, no matter where it comes from, because we are interested in the peace process."

Addressing Labor's Knesset faction yesterday, Peres said that the U.S. Administration does not want to create exaggerated expectations over its initiative, but that an international opening could take place in April or May. Peres explained that the purpose of the U.S. initiative is to make clear the substance of the interim arrangement and define the permanent one. He said these arrangements would enable Israel to participate in an international conference, which would first be followed by negotiations on an interim arrangement, then later by a permanent arrangement.

Peres stated that the Likud has a real problem because those who do not accept the procedure of an international conference would have even more problems with the substance of one.

Peres said Jordan is interested in stressing the permanent settlement while Israel is interested in the interim arrangement, and added that the latter is based on the same foundations as the autonomy plan.

Referring to the permanent settlement, Peres said: "According to the United States, this runs more or less along the lines of the Reagan plan. Therefore, when a Likud minister says that autonomy is the permanent settlement—this is an outright contradiction in terms. It is not a political initiative."

'Ezer Weizman interjected: "It is a lie."

Peres continued, saying that according to Philip Habib's report on his meeting with Husayn, the latter did not rule out the U.S. initiative, and is prepared to try such a move. "It is not a new plan, but a U.S.-initiated opening. If there is an opening, an interim settlement, and a permanent settlement, Husayn has no reason to reject it." Peres said it had been proven beyond doubt that Gush Emunim settlements could not prevent riots. He said the Soviets had not said the final word on the international conference issue.

'Ezer Weizman remaeked that people are mixed up. "They do not understand what an international opening is or what the Reagan plan is." People do not understand the Labor Party's stand, and "do not understand the difference between the Likud and the Alignment. The time has come to tell it to them." Weizman said these policies have caused Israel grave damage. He said the status quo no longer exists, "and those who say that violence does not pay should look at what has happened."

Knesset Member Abba Eban said the Likud is in the throes of a huge tactical problem, and its internal disputes should be exposed. Minister Moshe Shahal said that Shamir had sent Hanna Sinyurah to Washington.

Newspapers Discuss Aims of New U.S. Proposal

Reasons Speculated

JN041113 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Feb 88 p 1

["The Every Day" column: "A Solution Beginning From Defeat!" by Tariq Masarwah]

[Text] Less than a state, and more than autonomy.

That is the slogan for the new U.S. ideas which, during the past week, emerged as a cocktail whose presentation requires closed doors and unwritten explanations, and which needs to be kept within the limits of "a group of ideas" that do not rise to the level of "an initiative." That is because they are a compound that does not exist in its natural form, as chemists say, for its existence is of the conditional laboratory type.

We do not know much about that U.S. cocktail, but we know why it is being proposed now:

—As a way out of the U.S. dilemma.

—As a way out of the dilemma facing the Israeli occupation.

—As an attempt to reconcile "the Palestinians' homeland" with "the land of Israel in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza."

The U.S. cocktail is so far a group of unwritten ideas which Philip Habib has brought. More of such ideas will be brought by Assistant Secretary of State Murphy. In any case, it is a dangerous cocktail that gives a new interpretation to Resolutions 242 and 338. It is an interpretation that takes us once again to the Camp David policy of dealing separately with the parties, or to the Israeli invasion of Beirut and the 17 May agreement.

The Jewish Torah says: No good man comes out of Nazareth; and the modern political dictionary says: No good ideas come out of Washington. Nothing new has occurred in the Reagan Administration that changes the fact that it is allied to Zionist expansionism and Zionism's black hatred of the Arab nation. Washington's new ideas form an attempt to openly export the dilemma facing the shameful U.S. stand on human rights and the Geneva convention on the situation of civilians at times of war and occupation. They are an attempt to openly export the dilemma of expansionist Zionism which New York Jews themselves find shameful. These ideas are an attempt to export these dilemmas to us, and to the Europeans, and to the human conscience tormented by the glorious Palestinian uprising.

It is polite for Arab leaders to listen to Washington's new ideas. However, these leaders should have an appropriate language to respond to the irresponsibility with which the United States is facing an entire international community that, for the first time, is adopting a stand sympathetic to the Palestinian people, their just cause, and their glorious struggle for a free homeland. Such ideas are fitting for a defeated people, and we are not a defeated people. They are fitting for a nation that has declared its unconditional surrender, and we are not such a nation. Even if the June 1967 conspiracy led to the occupation of a part of the Arab homeland, such an occupation is not a way to subjugate the Arab nation, for it is not a Hiroshima bomb or the fall of Berlin.

Ever since the June war all Washington's plans have aimed at consecrating Arab defeat and a feeling among the Arabs that they have been totally defeated. They have also aimed to impose the imperialist-Zionist solution upon our nation. And that will not happen.

Plan Called 'Conspiracy'

JN041052 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Feb 88 pp 1, 17

[News Analysis by Rakan al-Majali: "The Illusionary Plan Is a Multifaced Conspiracy"]

[Text] As is well known, the tumultuous popular revolution against the Zionist occupation—its very existence, its usurpation of land, and its denial of human rights—has unequivocally set its aim. That aim is, namely, a comprehenisve treatment of the situation and a final decisive solution which will lead to the removal of the occupation.

It is obvious that the constant confiscation of Arab lands, the establishment of settlements, the alteration of the geographical reality, and the separation of man and land either by usurping the land or by expelling, uprooting, or deporting men were the causes of this decisive battle. Israel's daily oppressive practices were also causes for this battle.

All Zionist moves are now aimed at aborting this revolution after the Zionist war machine had failed to confront it. We therefore note the following:

1. There is a connection between the new U.S. plan and U.S.-Israeli contacts, foremost of which is the visit to Washington by Shamir's special envoy. Regardless of the level of frustration and the size of disagreements in the Zionist authority, the vague settlement plans are aimed at distracting the attention of people in the occupied homeland from their daily struggle. Shim'on Peres yesterday maliciously expressed the Labor Party's method of spreading illusions when he said that the international conference will be convened at the beginning of April or the beginning of May at most. All this clamor about solutions is meant to distract attention from reality to follow a mirage.

2. We do not know what has become of the Soviet proposal which was presented by USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. The plan was strongly supported by

Jordan and endorsed by all regional and international parties. The proposal called on the Security Council to assume its responsibility and prepare for an international peace conference in light of its recent resolutions and the painful situation in the occupied territories.

It is no secret that the new U.S. plan is also aimed at foiling this proposal and canceling any role by the Security Council. Concrete evidence of this is the U.S. veto against the recent Security Council draft resolution on the occupied territories. The U.S. delegate and current chairman of the Security Council had nothing to criticize in this draft resolution except that its articles had been previously adopted. But the fact is that the U.S. wants to end any Security Council role and undermine any effort to find a solution through the will of the international community.

3. This illusionary plan is also directed against the Arabs. At the Amman summit, the Arabs agreed on the basis and principles of peace in the region. The summit represented the unity of the Arab stand, and emphasised the Fez resolutions. The U.S. and Israel are trying to present a plan which is not serious, but aimed at creating Arab disagreements and various interpetations in order to divide the Arabs. Arab alertness to this will keep them united and adherent to the minimum level of Arab consensus represented by the call for an international conference attended by all regional and international parties, including the PLO.

This U.S. plan, therefore, aims at creating confusion. It also seeks to deflect Arab and international trends and the explosion of the internal situation in the occupied territories as part of the decisive confrontation with the Zionist enemy. We must be alert to the new dimension of this conspiracy.

U.S. Security Council Veto Discussed

King Husayn Comments

JN040827 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "We Are Alert and Firm—And Suspect Missions Will Not Succeed"]

[Text] During his press conference at the Elysee Palace yesterday, King Husayn asserted that the latest U.S. veto is tragic. By exercising that veto, the U.S. Administration prevented the UN Security Council from adopting a resolution calling on Israel to comply with the Geneva Convention in its relations with Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. King Husayn said the veto is likely to reflect on the U.S. and its credibility and on its future conduct. At the same time the king said that what is happening in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is bound to compel everyone to reconsider his stand.

These remarks come in the wake of King Husayn's lengthy talks with French President Mitterrand yesterday on the Middle East situation and, above all, the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The remarks were made at a time when the U.S. Administration has decided to send Richard Murphy to the region, and amid reports that Philip Habib will perhaps assist him in his mission and that it will send U.S. Secretary of State Shultz.

In light of radio reports about that mission, it appears to be a strange one. It aims to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to produce a Palestinian leadership. The U.S. Administration will then hold talks with that leadership and Jordan to probe ways of finding a solution to the situation in the occupied territory. That means that from the beginning, Murphy's mission aims to contain and abort the Palestinian uprising and divert the kinfolk there from struggling against the Israeli occupiers. It aims to do this by having the kinfolk vie with each other in suspect elections, thus undermining Palestinian national unity, divesting the PLO of its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and circumventing the international conference.

Needless to say, the struggling kinfolk in the occupied territory will not be fooled by the U.S. ploy. Neither will they be deflected from continuing their uprising against the Israeli aggressors by any suspect offer. Moreover, Jordan will not relinquish the international conference as the only road to establish a genuine peace in the area.

Certainly this country will not allow any U.S. attempt to cast doubt on its insistence on the international conference, its support of the uprising, and on the PLO role. Jordan is acting openly, and will never abandon its national stand. This stand is appreciated by all Arabs.

The U.S. Administration, which by its veto has committed a tragic action prejudicial to Palestinian rights, cannot offer the Palestinian people balsam with the other hand. King Husayn yesterday warned that the U.S. stand at the UN Security Council portends what could be expected from the U.S. administration in the future. Therefore, it is necessary for the Arabs to be extremely cautious because what is being said about Murphy's forthcoming mission in the area is a serious signal of Washington's intentions and of Washington's possible attempts to sabotage the Palestinian struggle in the future.

Reflects 'Hostile Stand'

JN031020 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
3 Feb 88 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "How Long Will the United States Persist in Supporting the Israeli Aggressor?"]

[Text] Our nation does not see any difference between those who practice oppression and those who, by all means, support this oppression.

The Israeli occupation authorities practice the most serious violations to human rights in the Arab occupied territories. Although the conscience of the whole world is rocked by these violations and strongly insists on the convening of a Middle East peace conference, the U.S. renews its hostile stand to our legitimate national rights and just causes. It uses its veto weapon in the Security Council when all the members of the Council, without exception, agreed to condemn Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, and to demand that it abide by the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians during times of war.

We have the right to ask about the U.S. stand vis-a-vis the demand for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. We especially have this right since the U.S. adopts such a hostile stand on an issue which is not the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but one of its results.

The French newspaper LE MONDE summed up the core of the U.S. stand when it said: "It is a policy against all steps which would bring about peace in the region."

This new U.S. stand "substantiates the unified view of Washington and Tel Aviv" as the Israeli UN mission says. There is no doubt that this U.S. stand is a clear message to Tel Aviv to continue its present oppressive policy; it is a shaking of the hand stained with the blood of our kinfolk.

According to the official U.S. spokesman, "the U.S. support for Israel will not stop." It is this support which, we know, provides the aggressors with a mechanism for continuing its aggression. If we add to this the fact that the U.S. administration allocated about $4 billion in aid for Israel for this year, the picture becomes clearer. Then we understand how the Zionist entity remains able to perpetrate its practices without any regard to or fear from the international community which has always tried to condemn the aggressor if it was not for the famous U.S. veto.

The U.S. veto can only be interpreted as a defense of Israel's crimes and total disdain for the international will. It is also a deliberately hostile act against our nation aimed at preventing it from acheiving its just and legitimate demands.

It is no secret that this abhorent U.S. veto directly affects our country and our kinfolk in the occupied territories. It comes at a time when His Majesty King Husayn, president of the Arab summit, is continuing his sincere efforts, which are based on an Arab consensus, to mobilize international efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict, something toward which the U.S. administration claims to be impartial.

This veto also comes after a frantic U.S. endeavor to ignore our just and legitimate rights which took the form of a counter [munawi'ah] initiative which the U.S. envoy Philip Habib has recently carried to the region.

Under all conditions and circumstances, the major obstacles which Israel and its strategic ally place in front of the sincere Arab and international peace efforts will backfire on those who make them and who falsely believe that force is the decisive factor in the movement of history.

King Husayn Denies Receiving Shamir Letter

JN031703 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has stated that he did not recently receive a letter from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. King Husayn's statement was in reply to a question by our correspondent in Paris in light of recent reports on the visit Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is currently paying to France.

In reply to another question on whether he will agree to convene a mini-summit in which Israel, Egypt, and Jordan participate, King Husayn said the only acceptable framework is an international conference in which all the parties concerned will participate under the aegis of the five UN Security Council permanent members. King Husayn said he hopes the incidents in the territories will make all of the parties reconsider their stands.

Prime Minister, Army Chief Leave for Europe

JN021250 Amman Domestic Service in English 1104 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and commander in chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir left Amman at noon today to join the delegation accompanying His Majesty King Husayn on his current European tour.

They were seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dhuqan al-Hindawi, a number of cabinet ministers, the Army chief of staff, and a number of high-ranking Army officers.

Further on Beirut Shooting of Frenchman

'Secret File' Stolen

NC031218 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Investigations have begun into the assassination of Frenchman Jacques Merrin, the third such killing in East Beirut within the past few months. Justice Mu'nif 'Uwaydat, the investigating magistrate, will receive the files containing the available information on the case from Internal Security Major Sa'id 'Id today. Justice 'Uwaydat summoned the pertinent security officials to a meeting in his office to discuss the case. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that Merrin was killed after a meeting with Lebanese General Security Director Jamil Ni'mah. According to security sources, Merrin was in possession of a secret file which was stolen from him at the time of the killing.

Ni'mah Denies Meeting

NC031254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the Public Security General Directorate in Beirut on 3 February]

[Text] To avert any misinterpretation or misunderstanding, Public Security Director General Jamil Ni'mah has made the following announcement: The public security director general did not meet with any French citizen or any other citizen on Tuesday, 2 February. He has not been to his office since Saturday, 30 January 1988, for health reasons. He affirmed that Frenchman Jacques Merrin did not meet with any public security commissioners on 2 February nor did he have any prior appointment in this regard. Furthermore, the victim was assassinated in the Al-Siryan quarter, which is outside the security zone of the Public Security General Directorate.

File Reportedly Recovered

NC031313 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Chief investigating magistrate George Ghantus has received a report on the inquiries into the assassination of Frenchman Jacques Merrin. The case had been referred to him by Justice Mu'nif 'Uwaydat. It has been decided that two eyewitnesses and personnel from the security authorities will be questioned on 11 February. [passage omitted]

It has turned out that Merrin had been living in the Al-Fanar area since 1984 and that he owned a licensed weapon equipped with a silencer. According to sources, the file which Merrin was carrying at the time of the assassination has been found by the authorities; it contains documents and names constituting material evidence that may lead to the perpetrators of the crime. [passage omitted]

Murder Investigation Involved

NC031512 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Beirut disclosed today that Jacques Merrin was killed while conducting an investigation into the murder of French engineer Richard Gimpel in Al-Ma'amiltayn on 11 November 1987. According to these sources, Merrin met with senior public security official Wahib Qiqanu and had in his possession a file on the case of Gimpel, who was also working for the French intelligence service. The sources said that the culprits, who knew of Merrin's meeting with Qiqanu, waited until he emerged from the meeting, then perpetrated their crime and seized the file in Merrin's possession. The same sources added that the file contains information which may be helpful in discovering the crime.

Commenting on this report, a French Embassy spokesman said he has no knowledge of such information.

Killing Linked to Armenian Group

AU041329 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Paris, Feb 4 (AFP)—A Frenchman killed Tuesday in Beirut was investigating links between an underground Armenian group and anti-French attacks in Lebanon, a dissident Lebanese Christian militia group said Thursday.

The May-9 Movement said in a communique issued here that the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) was "implicated in the latest attacks against French interests in (Christian-controlled) East Beirut."

Jacques Merrin, a French intelligence agent, was shot dead in East Beirut where he was investigating the death last November of a countryman, a Western diplomatic source in the Lebanese capital said.

The source said Mr. Merrin was investigating the death last November of French engineer Richard Gimpel, who also had links with the Direction Generale de la Securite Exterieure (DGSE).

The source added that Mr. Merrin had made contacts with Mr. Hubayqah, who was head of intelligence in the Lebanese Forces before his ouster from the militia in January 1986 for backing a Syrian-brokered peace plan for Lebanon.

Mr. Hubayqah's May-9 dissident movement denounced Mr. Merrin's assassinaton and stressed that the group had no links with the slaying.

The May-9 Movement added that ASALA was implicated in the assassination two years ago of the French military attache in Lebanon, Colonel Christian Goutiere, an October attack that targeted two French gendarmes as well as the murder of Mr. Gimpel.

The communique went on to say that the May-9 Movement had warned French authorities of the risk that their agents were running in East Beirut.

Kidnappers Reportedly Refuse To Free Schray

NC032040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] An Islamic security source has affirmed to a number of news agencies that the kidnappers of West German national Ralph Schray are resisting both Syrian and Iranian pressure to release him. However, Syria still expects the captive to be released.

Schray Reportedly With Syrians; 'Dispute' Cited

NC040639 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The fate of FRG citizen Ralph Schray, who was kidnapped in West Beirut last week, remains unknown. There are conflicting reports about efforts and pressures to secure his release.

According to a REUTER report cited by the media, a Muslim security source has confirmed that Schray's abductors refuse to release him despite pressure by Damascus and Tehran. Meanwhile, security sources in West Beirut say they have information that Schray has been with the Syrian occupation army for 3 days. The sources say that Schray's abductors agreed to release him after Hizballah and Iran had received guarantees from the Syrians that they will not come any closer to Beirut's southern suburb, following the implementation of Syrian plans to deploy military forces around Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps.

The information adds that Schray's abduction resulted largely from the Syrian-Iranian dispute over spheres of influence in Lebanon in general, and in West Beirut in particular, and from competition between Damascus and Tehran to display their forces and capabilities. The Syrians emphasize that Schray is expected to be released within 2 days. [passage omitted]

Bitterlin Pessimistic Over Mediation Effort

NC031631 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Lucien Bitterlin, head of the French-Arab Solidarity Society, has expressed pessimism with regard to his mediation over the "Silco" yacht issue, which, he disclosed, is facing obstacles.

He explained that the release of the two girls, Virginie and Marie-Laure, who are being held along with six other hostages by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has been hampered by a problem of sentimentalism. He revealed that the mother of the two girls, Jacqueline Valente, whom Fatah accuses of having links to Mossad, has refused to be separated from her two daughters. He said: Therefore, I ask that the mother and her children be freed. Bitterlin admitted that he is uncertain over what his next move should be following the delay in the release of the two girls. However, he gave himself another 48 hours to accomplish his mission.

Grenade Found in MEA Plane at Beirut Airport

NC041138 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] A hand grenade was discovered a short while ago in a Middle East Airlines [MEA] plane preparing for take-off from Beirut Airport to Cairo. The grenade was found in the toilet.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Castro

NC031826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today met with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. They discussed regional and international developments in light of the active diplomatic activity in the region. Al-Turk conveyed a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. The content of this message has not been disclosed.

Junblatt Interviewed by AL-HAWADITH

PM030903 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jan 88 p 16-18

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader and minister of public works, transport and tourism, by Samir Mansur; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: We heard you earlier telling a visitor that the helicopter problem was a tempest in a teapot and that pilot Majid Karami has joined the 11th Brigade. So, has the helicopter page finally been turned?

Junblatt: A page turned? Why? Was there any reason for all this exaggeration in the first place? And why the helicopter problem in particular? Why not other earlier problems? For instance, Rashid Karami's assassination and the lack of a serious approach in the investigations—which is a major blow to the Army institution. And also Khalil Kan'an's assassination; all this brings us back to a fundamental issue: The Army and its role. For how long will this Army remain a prisoner to narrow-minded policies in Lebanon, a prisoner of the ruling family, or a prisoner of privileges? We want a national army. When? We asked this question years ago. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: After 12 years of destructive war, where is Lebanon heading and what stage has the plot [against Lebanon] reached?

Junblatt: When one listens to the other party's talk, that is, talk by extremist Christians—[Lebanese Forces leader] Samir Ja'ja' for instance; and when one sees that after Rashid Karami's assassination the Army has not rid itself of criminal elements, one realizes that the horizon has diminished and that if the presidential elections were held, they would be conducted just as a means to handle a crisis. This is dangerous; we want a solution. But it seems that some people in the eastern area [of Beirut], in the state, and the Army, still bank on Israel and partitioning.

AL-HAWADITH: In view of the dramatic developments Lebanon is experiencing, there is concern over its destiny. Will the homeland survive or not? There are indications prompting us to worry about the homeland as an entity.

Junblatt: Some extremist Christian circles still have links with Israel and the West, specifically the Catholics, Samir Ja'ja' in particular. Some circles within the Army, namely Ibrahim Tannus, still maintain the idea of a Christian army. The idea of establishing a Christian homeland in Lebanon is still there—which would mean partitioning Lebanon. I hope that they will be told one day that such an adventure is crazy and that it would drag us into the dilemma of civil war, thus destroying the homeland. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Why is there now a Palestinian uprising in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip; why not before? Do you believe there are any links between the uprising and regional and international developments, such as talk about the imminence of convening an international conference?

Junblatt: Why is the uprising in the West Bank in the face of repression and Zionist control taking place today and not before? This is something long-standing but it has only erupted today. It has erupted today for numerous reasons: the Zionist machine's devastating failure in convincing the Arabs in Palestine of the Zionist plan; Israel's failure in Lebanon; and the nationalist resistance in Lebanon, which encouraged the people in the West Bank. The Arab horizon has come to an end in terms of a solution; all that is happening are settlements and conferences without any prospects. An international conference? I cannot see an international conference being held in the near future. Let us be practical: The U.S. presidential elections will be conducted this year, is that not true? Perhaps in 1989 there will be signs of an international conference, but not this year; this year is dead. And we must not link the uprising with an international conference. The uprising means an oppressed people has risen up, exceeded all expectations, and surprised everyone, even the PLO!

AL-HAWADITH: From time to time some media services tend to talk about your relationship with the Syrians. Why, I wonder?

Junblatt: Media services always like to cast doubt on Walid Junblatt's relationship with Syria. After all, it is a natural and objective relationship. We, in the mountain, the province, Beirut, and the suburb, are Arabs, and Syria is the gateway to Arabism. We have three options: the sea, Syria, and Israel. It is our history and our heritage. We were a single homeland in the first place. But some media services always like to cause trouble. Their inclinations are known.

AL-HAWADITH: Your political relations often assume a hostile nature even with your allies. Marks of the battles between your armed men and the Amal Movement's armed men are still clear on the capital's walls and buildings. Citizens still remember their suffering during the the battles of the allies.

Junblatt: The battles that occurred in Beirut represented a major national disaster. I hope we will be able to compensate the people of Beirut as much as possible for the disaster that occurred during recent fighting. I believe that the residues of that fighting have been eliminated. The fifth column which existed in the Socialist Party has been removed. But of course there are still both material and mental traumas; the mental ones are not easy to deal with.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean that fifth columns existed only within the Socialist Party, or are there other columns?

Junblatt: There are many in Beirut. Oh, there are indeed many in Beirut! That is why I am calling for a strong national front in Beirut. That is why I am calling on Syrian intelligence to watch these fifth columns and carry out more earnest work. It will not find this work easy. It will have to work hard both at the level of security and at the political level. We will help it. There is an Israeli fifth column, there is a Deuxieme Bureau; anything you want you can find in Beirut ... American ... anything exists!

AL-HAWADITH: If Mr Walid was asked to tell us today for what cause national parties and forces are fighting or struggling, what would he say?

Junblatt: The central problem in Lebanon is the issue of Arabism. Arabism in Lebanon is in danger. We perhaps have forgotten about this matter. The most important thing is to establish Arabism in Lebanon, in the Army, in education, in institutions, and in foreign policy. So far there are two trends in Lebanon: a Western trend that wants to remove Lebanon from the Arab world, and an Arab trend. The most important is Arabism. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you feel that you have at any time been unfair to President Amin al-Jumayyil in a certain situation? Or to be clear, do you feel that your political statements have often been harsh?

Junblatt: Amin al-Jumayyil has no qualities. He has no qualities to speak of. In fact we have not said enough about him. History will be his judge; it will judge him and his party; history will judge him. If he thinks that palaces in Bikfayya or elsewhere or his money in Geneva will protect him, it certainly will not protect him. The day will come, since he has committed terrible crimes against both Christians and Muslims. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: We know how your relationship is with the Lebanese Front, but are there any contacts with politicians within this front?

Junblatt: No.

AL-HAWADITH: With the Lebanese Forces?

Junblatt: No.

AL-HAWADITH: With Minister Nabih Birri?

Junblatt: We are trying together to firmly establish the Unification and Liberation Front, but that is not easy. There are major intrinsic and objective obstacles. But we are trying. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: And with the Muslim fundamentalists?

Junblatt: With the Muslim fundamentalists? My relationship with Hizballah is good; this is known. I consider Hizballah to be a fundamental force in Lebanon and an extension to a huge power called Iran. I consider their struggle against Israel and the Phalangists to be both fundamental and strategic. We are with them in this regard. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Have you read the leaflets distributed from time to time nominating some Muslim clergymen, close to Iran, for the presidency?

Junblatt: I have seen them, some time ago.

AL-HAWADITH: What do they mean?

Junblatt: Why fear Islam ... why?

AL-HAWADITH: We do not mean fear.

Junblatt: It is legitimate that there should be non-Christian candidates. Why not? [passage omitted]

Birri Discusses Considerations for 'Detente'

NC311831 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Nabih Birri has affirmed that there is a plot to exchange one president for another so that the existing hegemony may be maintained. He said that detente must be achieved before the elections, pointing out that no detente or elections will take place without the approval of Syria and the Lebanese nationalists.

Speaking today at a rally marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of Zafir al-Khatib, Birri said that the Amal Movement is considering detente measures to be discussed with the nationalist allies and friends, and the Syrian brothers, in order to contribute to a solution and avoid an impasse. He explained that all the nationalist solutions focus on two questions: How ready are you to liberate the south and to participate in the liberation of Palestine as an Arab country, and do you accept us as allies in this homeland? He said that a positive answer to these questions will lead to detente.

Ja'ja' on Elections, Ties With Syria

NC301036 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] In an interview with the AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI magazine, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' stressed that what is important is that no person who would do away with the country should become the president of the Republic. He said: The watchword in the issue of the presidential elections is the one which the active parties in Lebanon conjure up. The big states and powers take into consideration the stand of the active parties in the arena, and they establish their attitude on that basis.

Dr Ja'ja' disclosed that there has only been an exchange of views among the major states regarding the presidential elections. He stressed that these states are not concerned about the persons, saying: The Americans, for example, do not want to see a candidate with leftist leanings. He pointed out that he has all the evidence necessary to prove that nobody has enjoined Lebanon to Syria. Ja'ja' explained that the Syrians will attempt to impose their candidate and the Lebanese Forces will resort to all means to prevent his assumption of the presidency.

The Lebanese Forces commander stated that the problem in Lebanon is the presence of Syria, as well as of the Palestinians and Iranians. He explained that the concentration on the Syrian occupation is due to the fact that the Syrians, not the Iranians, Israelis, or Palestinians, prevent the president from ruling. He pointed out that the president does not want to renew or extend his term, nor does the Constitution permit this.

Referring to the possible solutions if the elections cannot be held on schedule, Dr Ja'ja' said: One solution is the formation of a transitional government under a Christian citizen who has the minimum specifications required to manage affairs during the interim period. He defined the duties of such a government as safeguarding the country's structure, independence, and freedom. He stated further that nobody can determine the length of the interim period, but that it should not be more than 2 to 3 months. Ja'ja' reaffirmed that the object of this entire game is to prevent a Syrian candidate from becoming the president of the Republic.

On an understanding with Syria, he said: If this is an understanding on Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon, or on a timetable for Syria's withdrawal, then we support it. If it is an understanding with Syria on the tripartite agreement, then we oppose it. And if it is an understanding on giving Syria the territory in Lebanon which is under its control, then we totally reject it.

Dr Ja'ja' stipulated that the termination of the Syrian presence in Lebanon must be the first item of discussion in any dialogue between the Lebanese Forces and Syria. He denied the existence of any understanding with the Syrians, and considered continuous confrontation with the Syrians as the only alternative to any solution providing for sharing Lebanon with Syria.

The Lebanese Forces commander said: We do not accept that Syria or Israel interferes in our political affairs. When we reject the presence of Syria, when we reject a Syrian tripartite agreement and special relations with Syria, we apply the same to Israel. On the basis of this same principle, what is rejected in relation to Syria is also rejected in relation to the United States, Israel, and any other foreign state.

Dr Ja'ja' declared that he believes in the unity of Lebanon and Christian-Muslim coexistence, but not on the basis of the 1943 formula, proportional democracy [al-dimuqratiyah al-'adadiyah), or any other chaotic formula. He said: The Christians and Muslims are like oxygen and hydrogen; if combined in a chaotic way, they will cause an explosion. If you combine them in specific ratios, under certain conditions and atmospheres, then there will be life. The federal system is the best way to bring the Christians and Muslims together.

Ja'ja' emphasized that Lebanon's existence has become a historical and geopolitical fact. He expressed his adherence to Lebanon's sovereignty over its 10,452 square kilometers, to a clear decentralized political system of coexistence, as well as to the free economic system and private enterprise. He also spoke about the services which must be provided, such as free medication and education, housing, and other social services.

The Lebanese Forces commander stated that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni cannot express an opinion and speak freely and that he cannot implement any plans on which an understanding could be reached. Regarding Elie Hubayqah, the commander said that he is a parrot and repeats what the Syrians say. Ja'ja' declared that Minister Junblatt is a liar, and he doubted that Junblatt has any fixed convictions. Referring to Nabih Birri, Ja'ja' said: Birri's problem is that he is 100 percent under Syria's control. If he has any fixed convictions, then he does not work to establish them. Turning to Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Ja'ja' stated: I fully respect him although I totally disagree with him. Of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Ja'ja' declared: He is seeking to achieve the same goal sought by Fadlallah, but with twisted methods. He went on to say that he harbors every respect, love, and amity for Mufti Hasan Khalid. He also described the present government as the Government of Syria, by the ratio of 2 to 5.

Discussing the international stands on Lebanon, Dr Ja'ja' said: The Soviet Union's current opinion on what is happening in Lebanon differs slightly from its opinion in past years. He explained that Moscow does not adopt Syria's policy 100 percent and that it supports the arrangement of the Lebanese-Syrian relations in an amicable way. On the U.S. stand, the Lebanese Forces commander said that the United States opposes the tripartite agreement. He also recalled the stand expressed by the British foreign secretary 2 months ago when he said that Syria cannot stay in Lebanon and President al-Asad must reconsider the presence of his forces in Lebanon.

Shell Falls Near New Foreign Ministry Building

NC040722 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] An artillery shell fell near the new Foreign Ministry building in the Ba'bda area at 0705 today. The shell, fired from Bi'r al-'Abd in Beirut's southern suburb, caused only property damage.

PSP Issues Statement on Group's USSR Visit

NC020527 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The PSP Political Bureau held its weekly session today at its headquarters in B'aqlin under the chairmanship of its deputy party leader, Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad. The following statement was issued at the conclusion of the meeting:

1. The Political Bureau heard a report on the visit by a joint PSP-Lebanese Communist Party delegation to the Soviet Union. It noted the unique importance of the talks held with the CPSU leadership, headed by Yegor Ligachev, member of the CPSU Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee. The Political Bureau highly appraised the results of the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of deep understanding and common solidarity. These talks constitute a qualitative step in the relationship that solidly establishes the national Lebanese, Arab, and international alliance. The delegation presented a joint working paper

on national and pan-Arab problems. The members of the delegation have discovered that the Soviet comrades are firm in their support for and backing of the Arab issues and the Arab struggle for liberation, as manifested in the joint communique.

2. The two sides stressed the need to exert efforts to achieve a political Lebanese reconciliation, based on constructive dialogue among the Lebanese groups and on the principles of Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and democratic development. The reconciliation must be based on the reform plans, starting with the national movement plan, proposed by Walid Junblatt [words indistinct] and ending with the tripartite agreement. The two parties stressed the unity of [word indistinct] between the Lebanese and Syrian peoples in confronting Zionism and imperialism, and also stressed Syria's helpful role in the national reconciliation process.

3. The two sides discussed the importance and significance of the intensifying Palestinian uprising in occupied Palestine. They highly appraised the role of the Palestinian people's struggle in creating the conditions for a just solution, including the independent participation of the PLO delegation in an international peace conference, to bring about self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. They also stressed the importance of ending the camps war and moving toward strengthening the national Lebanese and Palestinian forces.

4. The two sides reiterated their stand, which calls for ending the Gulf war in accordance with Resolution 598, and for the departure of all foreign fleets and their replacement by a UN force that would secure the safety of maritime routes.

5. The Soviet comrades expressed their great appreciation for the national Lebanese resistance against the Israeli occupation in the south. They also expressed their support for the national Lebanese struggle to liberate the south and to secure Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence.

6. The Soviet comrades explained the plan for socialist restructuring in a democratic way and for economic, cultural, and spiritual restructuring, and stressed that this is being done under the CPSU leadership within the context of its program. The Soviet comrades also explained Soviet foreign policy, which is working for a peaceful and disarmed world. Its policy calls for eliminating nuclear missiles first, and then for finding solutions to regional conflicts. Soviet policy also calls for firmly supporting the people's right to choose their road to development without foreign intervention.

The joint Lebanese delegation hailed the maturity of the Soviet leadership, the Soviet Union's achievements, and its growing, progressive role in the world.

7. The Political Bureau discussed the developments in the Arab arena and praised the escalating heroism of the Palestinian uprising. [passage omitted]

Interview With Iran's Kharrazi Cited

NC040718 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] In an interview with AL-SAFIR published today, Dr Kamal Kharrazi, head of the Iranian War Information Headquarters, has said that Iran wishes to end the Gulf war through diplomatic means, but it does not pin great hopes on current UN efforts in this regard.

In the interivew, Kharrazi, who is visiting Lebanon, welcomed Syrian mediation between Iran and the Arab Gulf states. He added that Iran is determined to patch up its differences with these states and that Gulf security is contingent on the establishment of good and healthy relations between the Gulf states and Iran.

Touching on Iranian-Soviet relations, Dr Kharrazi said that these are improving, noting that Consultative Council Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow is still planned, though a date has not yet been set.

Kharrazi denied that the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon was behind his current visit to Lebanon. But he added: We hope the day will come when all hostages are released.

The Iranian official lauded the Lebanese people's struggle against the Israeli enemy, adding: We appreciate the resistance that the Lebanese people, regardless of their religious or organizational affiliations, are displaying against the Israeli enemy. He also lauded the current uprising in occupied Palestine.

Israeli-Lahd Force Enters Town, Withdraws

NC031327 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from Rshaf, the Israelis and agent Lahd militiamen withdrew from the town at noon today. They are now stationed in the eastern approaches overlooking the town. Israeli troop movements have been noticed between Rshaf and Haddathah.

UNIFIL sent a helicopter from the Nepalese contingent this afternoon to inspect the situation in Rshaf and the condition of its inhabitants. Earlier this morning, an Israeli mechanized force entered Rshaf and opened indiscriminate fire at citizens, slightly injuring two people.

Israeli Ground, Air Activities Reported

NC040923 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] An NNA correspondent has reported that the Hasbayya area has been the scene of activities by the Israeli ground and air forces over the past few hours.

Briefs

New Libyan Ambassador

The Lebanese Government has approved the appointment of 'Ashur 'Abd al-Majid al-Furtas as the new secretary of the Libyan People's Brotherhood Bureau in Lebanon. [Excerpt] [*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 88 NC*]

'Voice of Iraq' Radio Resumes Broadcasts

JN032010 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Unattribtued commentary]

[Text] Brothers in Iraq: Today your radio, the Voice of Iraq, comes back to you after a period of silence. During this period we chose to let the voice of the uprising in the occupied territory be the loudest. We hoped that this voice would awaken those who are indulging in their misguidedness and in their endeavors to deviate the Arab nation from its struggle against its main enemy. We thought that the stone-throwing children in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, who shook the conscience of the world by their heroism and their confrontation of Zionist repression, would be able to shake the frozen conscience of those who are implementing the plot of transforming the main Arab struggle with the Zionist enemy into a secondary struggle and placing a marginal dispute at the top of Arab priorities. We said: This is no time for a war of words while our people in the occupied territory are recording daily epics in their struggle against the occupying Zionists.

We had hoped that the misguided ones would realize that this is the time to unify efforts and forces around the uprising of the sons of the occupied territory. However, our care for our people's uprising was willfully misinterpreted by the ruling regime in Iraq. This regime escalated its campaigns and insults in such a way that we found no option but to return once again in order to confront it, to refute its claims, and to expose its allegations through your radio, the Voice of Iraq.

Again we say that we are at your side on the path of struggle in order to uphold right, justice, and freedom in the beloved land of Iraq.

Commentary on Current Mideast Peace Efforts

JN011946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories has activated international efforts on the Middle East issue. The most politically active parties at the present time are Camp David representatives. The Israeli leaders, despite their disagreements, have begun to speak a new language concerning a settlement in the occupied territories. Shamir once said that Israel's borders were established in the Bible for thousands of years. He is now under pressure from the crisis into which the uprising has thrown Israel's aggressive expansionist policy. Therefore, he has begun to talk about autonomy for the occupied territories and amendments to Menahem Begin's autonomy project, which is in the Camp David accords.

Foreign Minister Peres, while his government continues its brutal oppressive acts in the occupied territories, reaffirms his call for an international conference. Of course, this conference must be held under conditions that he has already laid down. Other Israeli politicians from various parties now loudly call for withdrawal from the occupied territories before Israel finds itself in an unconquerable situation that may threaten its very existence.

Former General Rafa'el Eytan describes the effect of the uprising on the Israelis when he says: Palestinians have stopped fearing us. A situation like that of the Algerian NLF has been created. The Israeli journalist (Solar) views the situation from an Israeli viewpoint in the West German magazine DER SPIEGEl when he writes: The children's war has almost taken us back to the unstable situation that prevailed before the creation of Israel. The 20 years after the occupation of 1967 changed nothing, but everything is different now. We should have known that things could not remain in the long run as they were. We are once again frightened. One feels frightened when walking in the dark through Jerusalem's old streets.

In addition to the activity of Israeli politicians, the U.S. administration has moved. It pulled Philip Habib out of the cupboard of oblivion and sent him on a Middle East mission. It also talked about new tours for Richard Murphy and new ideas for a peace process.

The Camp David regime in Egypt has also moved after the foundations of Camp David collapsed under the brunt of the stones of the children of the resistance in the occupied territories. Representatives of this regime started touring the world calling for a so-called new initiative and for stopping violence—violence, as it were, without any discrimination between an occupier and a defender, between an aggressor and an aggrieved party, or between a criminal and a victim.

The Camp David group is trying to salvage what is left from the debris of the false peace drive that the United States, Israel, and Anwar al-Sadat organised. The group is presenting ideas and proposals to gain time, pending action by the fascist Israeli forces in the occupied territories.

In addition to the moves of the Camp David group, there is a serious international concern about the new situation that the uprising has created. This concern revolves around the call for convening an international conference on the Middle East under the supervision of the United Nations with the participation of all concerned parties and the permanent members of the Security Council.

However, this concern about the problem of the Middle East, which is associated with the popular uprising in the occupied territories, has not substantially changed the stands of the parties apart from a verbal tendency to support the idea of the international conference. The

international conference is not an aim within itself; there are fundamental differences about the conference, its formation, responsibilities, and role.

The United States, which verbally agrees to the idea of the conference, is still captive to its total bias to the Israeli viewpoint, which wants the conference to be a bridge to direct capitulation negotiations.

For the conference to be effective and harmonious with the idea that prompted the UN to call for it, it must be authorised and committed to implement UN resolutions and the principles of its charter. Otherwise, it will only be a soother, which the occupiers will use to anesthetize rising feelings and postpone a settlement.

UN resolutions on the Palestinian question, which is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the region's crisis, are not governed by only one resolution, which considers the Palestinian question one of refugees. There are also resolutions that mention an Arab state in Palestine, the return of the refugees to their homeland, and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. All these resolutions are binding and necessary to bring justice.

The question of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories is settled in UN resolutions calling for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressors from all occupied Arab territories. The UN Charter also does not allow the aquisition of another party's territory through force. The question of withdrawal is nonnegotiable, and no concessions can be made. Those who talk of mutual concessions must concede what they possess, not what others possess. On the other hand, those seriously seeking a just peace and acceptable settlement must start from a just point, in harmony with the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions. The first thing in such a start is adherence to the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, including the right for self-determination and the call for the withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors from all occupied Arab territories.

Paper Criticizes Egyptian Call on 'Uprising'

JN300919 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jan 88

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN has discussed the Egyptian regime's call to stop the revolutionary uprising in the occupied territory. It says what is most serious about the call is that it equates the uprising with the actions of the occupation forces. It equates the Arab whose land and rights have been usurped with the occupation authorities which are usurping land and rights. According to the concept of the Egyptian regime, both the Zionist repressive acts of force and the Arab reaction of confrontation, self-defense, and defense of the land for the sake of liberation and self-determination are violence that must be stopped so that solutions can be found.

TISHRIN adds: It appears that what is meant by violence is only Arab violence, which according to the Egyptian regime's call must be stopped. That call reminds one of the terms used by the United States whenever it describes any Israeli aggression against the Arabs in Lebanon or any other place, even within Palestine, for it refers to both Israeli aggression and patriotic resistance as acts of violence.

The Egyptian call has falsely been termed an initiative. What is surprising is that this call has come about 1 month after the uprising and after the uprising significantly changed world public opinion in favor of the Palestinian people's struggle and cause. The whole world began to act as though this was the first they had heard about the cause. The uprising has brought about an enormous change in the course of the Palestinian cause. It has been taken to another level totally different from the world's perception of that cause throughout the past 40 years. At such a time the Egyptian regime volunteers to persuade the world—Europe and the United States—that the uprising is a violence that must be stopped. It is thus doing Israel's work and expressing its hope, so that Israel will be able to catch its breath and to foil the solutions which the uprising has objectively matured—solutions which the world has begun to demand. These are the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people to liberation and to establish a Palestinian state.

Palestinian Communist Party Officials Hold Talks

JN021832 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1558 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 2 Feb (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today Brother 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party, and Jiryis Qawwas and 'Abdallah Nimir, members of the party's Political Bureau.

The talks dealt with the relationship between the Ba'th Party and the Palestinian Communist Party, the uprising of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories and ways to support it in order to guarantee its continuation, and the unification of efforts for the success of this uprising.

People's Assembly Official Views APU Meeting

JN302040 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Dr 'Ali Rida, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly, has said that the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] stressed in its 25-27 January session in Tunis that the Palestinian cause is the Arabs' central cause and the crux of the Arab-Zionist dispute. Speaking upon his return from Tunis today, Rida asserted that the struggle for the restoration of usurped Arab rights in the occupied Arab land is a pan-Arab responsibility. He observed that the APU saluted the uprising of our kinfolk in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. The APU, he added, also saluted the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people

and their heroic resistance, and appreciated Syria's efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon. Rida noted that the APU condemned foreign naval and air exercises and the deployment of American and NATO Forces in and near the Arab region.

Dr Rida reported that the APU had condemned Israel's policy and its ally, the U.S., and appreciated the UN General Assembly's resolution in its 24nd session in 1987, supporting Syria's initiative calling for a UN-sponsored international conference to distinguish between terrorism and national struggle.

The APU expressed support for Syria in its drive to defend its sovereignty and steadfastness against the aggressive Zionist-imperialist policies, Rida concluded.

Bangladesh

100 Injured in Clashes With Police

BK040938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, over 100 persons, including 50 students, were injured in clashes with police in Sylhet and Chittagong yesterday. Seven policemen were also injured in the incident. In Sylhet, police used tear gas and made a lathi [baton] charge when a student procession in support of the opposition program against police repression turned violent. Then police fired several rounds to disperse a mob in Chittagong, injuring over 50 persons.

Khaleda Zia Criticizes Economic Policy

BK031545 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chittagong, Jan. 31—The Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairman and seven-party Alliance leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, on Sunday called upon the people to intensify mass movement for unseating the present regime.

Addressing mammoth gathering at Chittagong Muslim Institute, Begum Zia reiterated that the removal of the present government is indispensable to restore the rule of law and to establish a democratic system.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that the present Government unleashed a reign of terror to suppress the upsurge of people determined to overthrow the Government. President Ershad in prolonging his rule surpassed all political norms.

Referring to the dismal economic situation, the BNP chief said that the country is now bankrupt. The policies that the Government followed during its six years rule almost ruined the economy. The present anti-people activities of the Government are a further blow to the economy, she added.

Begum Khaleda Zia declared that the people through the spontaneous observance of phase-wise Opposition programmes totally rejected the present Government. It is now sheer obstinacy on the part of the Government to hang on to power against the wishes of the people, she added.

Turning to the the recent killing of persons in Chittagong in police firing, Khaleda Zia said that these barbarous acts have no parallel. She said, "we do not find any belittling language to condemn this incident."

The seven-party Alliance leader declared that the political parties and Alliance had all the rights to hold public meetings and to bring out processions.

The BNP chairman pointed out that the Government, on the contrary, have been freely holding public meetings and bringing out procession without any obstruction. She urged all political parties to avenge the killings by intensifying the mass movement.

Among other speakers were BNP Secretary-General K.M. Obaidur Rahman, Col. (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Mr L.K. Siddique, Begum Sarwari Rahman, Mr Abdullah Al Noman and Mirza Abbas.

Earlier, Begum Khaleda Zia and her party leaders were accorded a rousing reception when they arrived at Chittagong Airport by Biman flight. She spoke briefly at four points on her way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

She visited the injured persons there and enquired about their condition both at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Railway Hospital. There are now ten injured persons undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Begum Khaleda Zia along with her party central leaders left Chittagong for Dhaka by the evening flight.

India

Nuclear-Powered Submarine Joins Navy 3 Feb

BK031254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] India's first nuclear submarine "INS [Indian naval ship] Chakra" joined the naval fleet today. It was inducted in the presence of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at Visakhapatnam. The Indian Navy is the second in Asia to have a nuclear-powered submarine after China. "INS Chakra" is on lease to the Indian Navy from the Soviet Union. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said this Soviet gesture marks a milestone in Indo-Soviet cooperation in defense.

Gandhi Says Not Nuclear Armed

BK040342 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The country's first nuclear-powered submarine, "INS Chakra," today joined the Indian Navy. With this, India became the second country in Asia after China to have the nuclear-powered submarine. Besides China, the Soviet Union, the United States, France, and Britain possess nuclear-powered submarines. The "INS Chakra," however, will not be carrying any nuclear warhead.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, inducted the submarine into Indian Navy at a simple ceremony at channel harbor at Visakhapatnam. A model of the new submarine was presented to the prime minister. Mr Gandhi addressed the gathering after the induction of "INS Chakra."

[Begin Gandhi recording] "INS Chakra" is propelled by nuclear power, but not armed with nuclear weapons. There will be regular reviews of safety measures and contingency plans for emergencies. We have given particular attention to the management of nuclear waste. There will be a periodical audit of waste material. India wants to live in peace with its neighbors and the rest of the world. We believe that durable peace is not possible without peaceful coexistence. We believe that assured survival is not possible without the elimination of nuclear weapons. [end recording]

The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and the naval chief, Admiral Nadkarni, were present on the occasion. Earlier, the prime minister went inside the submarine and met the crew members. He spent more than an hour in the submarine.

Pakistan Building Defense Line Along Border
BK040946 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 88 p 20

[By Ashutosh Handoo]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28—Pakistan is feverishly engaged in building a type of "Sicilian Defence" line opposite the terrorist-affected Amritsar district of Punjab triggering a minor alarm in defence circles here, official sources said today.

The building activity has been going on at a quick pace on about 50 km stretch for the last several weeks within the Pakistani borders all along the Wagh-Khalra-Khemkaran main axis of high strategic importance to both the countries.

Sources said as part of this build-up, Pakistanis were mainly raising about 20-feet-high and 100-feet-wide "bundhs" [barriers] in Kasur opposite the Khemkaran sector and along the border upward up to the Wagh front. Trenches were also being dug out at a number of places.

The "bundhs" and trenches were incidently coming up on land which is very fertile and cropped round the year by the Pakistani villagers right up to the canal separating them from the Indian border. The consequential crop loss, which is pinching the villagers, is said to be on the higher side.

Why the Pakistanis should go in for such a costly exercise—that too at a feverish pace—when there is no activity on this side of the border and they face no threat from India is agitating the minds of some of the defence experts here.

However, it was not the mere building of the "bundhs" and digging of trenches alone that sent the alarm signals to the Defence experts here, but their overall pattern and the way they were distanced from each other that is causing the concern.

It resembled the famous "Sicilian Defence" concept.

Intelligence sources said that on each such "bundh" machine gun "nests" could be ideally arranged whose fire could effectively engage targets up to two km and more, considering the field of fire was clear as was the case of the Punjab border.

From the Indian border, the Pakistani defence across now included a canal, then the newly constructed "bundhs" followed by cropped area and the sugar canal running well inside the border, sources said.

The motive behind building such a long-range fire power capability during peace time could not be clearly understood by some of the security experts here though this development in the backdrop of escalating terrorist violence did assume significance.

It is pointed out that the newly developed "bundhs" could straightway have a dual advantage. First, it could enhance the field surveillance capability of the Pakistani troops, and second, it could help them in engaging (with medium machine guns) from several sides any assault party from this side of the border by outflanking them, catching them in a cross-fire or hitting them straight.

Sources said this way the Pakistanis could hold back any attack for a considerable period of time till reinforcements arrived and regrouped totally blunting the advantage of a surprise assault.

Ruling Parties Lead in Tripura, Meghalaya Polls
BK031329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The ruling parties have taken an early lead in the assembly elections in the two northeastern states of Tripura and Meghalaya. In Tripura, the CPI-M has won 10 out of 16 seats for which results have been declared so far. The Congress-I has bagged four seats and its ally the TUYS [Tripura Upajati Yuba Samiti] has won two. The prominent winners in Tripura include the deputy chief minister, Mr Dasaratha Deb, who retained the Ramchandraghat seat; the cooperation minister, Mr Abhiram Deb Barma; and the deputy speaker, Mr Bimal Sinha. Two ministers who have lost their seats are the state forest minister, Mr Araber Rahaman, and the revenue minister, Mr Khagen Das, both of CPI-M. They were defeated by Congress-I candidates—Mr Bilal Mian and Mr Surajit Dutta. The public works and transport minister, Mr Baidyanath Majumder, of CPI-M retained the Chandipur seat. Polling was held in 59 constituencies of Tripura as it was countermanded in one constituency following the death of a CPI-M candidate.

In Meghalaya, the ruling Congress-I has bagged 10 seats out of 20 results declared so far. The Hill People's Union [HPU] has taken five and the Hills State People's Democratic Party [HSPDP] two.

The independents have won three. The Meghalaya chief minister, Captain W.A. Sangma, has retained the Baghmara seat. This is Captain Sangma's fourth successive victory from the same constituency. [passage omitted]

Here is the latest tally. Tripura: total seats 60; elections held 59; results declared 18: CPI-M 11, Congress-I 5, TUYS 2.

Meghalaya: total seats 60; results declared 21: Congress-I 10, HPU 5, HSPDP 2, independents 4.

Election Results Updated

BK040316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Congress-I TUJS [Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti] alliance is maintaining its lead in Tripura. No party is in a position to secure an absolute majority in Meghalaya. [passage omitted]

Here is the latest party position in Tripura and Meghalaya assembly polls: Tripura: Total seats 60; elections held 59; results declared 47: Congress-I 21; TUJS 4; CPI-M 20, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] 2.

Meghalaya: Total seats 60; elections held 60; results declared 53: Congress-I 19; Hill People's Union 16; HSPDP [Hill State People's Democratic Party] 5; PDIC [Public Demands Implementation Convention] 2; APHLC [All Party Hill Leaders Conference] 2; and independents 9.

Iran

President's Brother Wants PLO Office Closed

LD041248 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1807 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3 (TANJUG)—Scyyed Hadi Khamene'i, an influential member of Majlis (Iranian parliament) and brother to the president of the Islamic Republic, has asked that the Palestine Liberation Organization's Embassy in Tehran be closed or replaced by other representatives of the Palestinian people, reports the evening daily KEYHAN.

For years, Iranian officials have been accusing the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat of giving in to Israel and "the reactionary Arab states." Tehran also criticized 'Arafat for "abandoning the armed struggle."

In this latest and sharpest attack on the PLO so far, the organization was called "treacherous."

If the PLO office in Iran is not replaced by "genuine representatives of the Palestinian people," it should be closed, the Majlis member said.

Foreign Minister on Afghan Islamic Government

LD031809 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received members of Afghanistan's Islamic coalition here Wednesday where they thanked the clear and unwavering position of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

A mujahidin spokesman said the Afghan Muslim people want an Islamic government and reject any coalition with Western backed groups.

He stressed that internationalisation of the Afghan issue is an ominous plot hatched by world arrogance and made it clear that it is mujahidin alone who determine the fate of Afghanistan as they are its true representatives.

Furthermore, he added, the Afghan people will continue their struggle until the full independence of their Muslim homeland.

In response Velayati said "we are witnessing moves in Afghanistan indicating that East and West share the same viewpoints on this issue".

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said, has a clear stance towards the Afghan issue and strives for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Velayati Reports to Cabinet on Poland Visit

LD031216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] During this morning's Cabinet session, the ministers were informed of the main domestic events. They then heard reports on the demonstrations of the Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories, which have become more frequent and serious, despite the daily increasing barbaric acts of the regime occupying Jerusalem. While the government condemned the U.S. regime for vetoing the UN Security Council resolution demanding an end to the crushing measures in the occupied territories, the Cabinet stressed the need for practical and serious support of this Islamic and justice-seeking uprising, without expecting any backing from international organizations.

Subsequently, Mr Seyyed Kya, roads and transport minister, and his deputies presented a report to the Cabinet on the progress made in the construction of the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railroad line, which was begun during the imposed war and continues at a swift pace. The report says that 350 km of this railroad line, the total length of which is 650 km, will be completed by the end of the year 1367 [20 March 1989] and will enter service. The rest of the line—of which about 40 percent of the foundation work is completed—will be ready for use in the year 1372 [21 March 1993 to 20 March 1994].

According to our correspondent's report, Foreign Minister Velayati also presented a report to the Cabinet on his trip to Poland, his talks with that country's officials, and other meetings he held enroute to Poland and during his return journey. While expressing hope for the expansion of bilateral political, economic, and technical relations, the Cabinet stressed the need for cooperation with Poland on international issues.

Also during this session, the prime minister's executive deputy and the supervisor of the headquarters for construction of shelters presented a report to the Cabinet on shelter building projects all over the country. The report declared that 6,061 shelters have been built in schools, factories, public thoroughfares, and hospitals. The report adds that 1,997 more shelters are presently under construction.

Islamic Conference Issues 10-Point Resolution

NC040918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Following an address by the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, a 10-point resolution adopted by the Sixth International Conference on Islamic Thought was read. One section of this resolution dealing with the violation of human rights by oppressive and imperialist powers states: The Conference on Islamic Thought calls on all defenseless, oppressed, and interested people to contemplate ways of establishing international humanitarian organizations that will truly defend legitimate human aspirations. The conference also [words indistinct] of Imam Khomeyni as the leader of the Islamic revolution and stresses that the revolution's victory has provided the greatest support for the oppressed masses of the world and reinforced their determination to regain their rights.

Another section of the resolution emphasizes the need to safeguard the sanctity of the precincts of divine peace and condemns the Saudi regime's heinous atrocity of massacring defenceless pilgrims, a violation of the holiness of the precincts of divine peace. All Muslims are asked to support the liberation of the two holy mosques from the talons of U.S. agents and of their administration by the ulema of Islam.

The Conference on Islamic Thought also condemns the usurpist Jerusalem regime's crimes. It pays tribute to the Muslim Palestinian people's uprising, and stresses the need for multilateral support and contining the holy defense until final victory. Another part of the resolution denounces the efforts of the oppressors of East and West to violate human rights in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, and other countries.

Conference participants consider Iraq's imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the merciless assassinations of prominent Muslim combatant individuals and scholars to be a continuation of world apostasy from all the [words indistinct] of Islam and a violation of human rights. They stressed the need to fight until the final victory, to topple the 'Aflaqi regime, and to uproot sedition.

Mohtashemi on Marking Border, New Governorates

LD032118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] During an interview, Interior Minister Mohtashemi commented on elections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Election headquarters, executive committees, and supervisors of elections for the Majlis' third term have been formed in provincial centers. Moreover, all necessary facilities have been prepared, including questionnaires, the printing of ballots, and the setting up of ballot boxes. According to an IRNA report, in announcing this news to a group of reporters in Semnan, the interior minister said:

Some steps have been taken regarding the amendment of a series of election laws and regulations. He added: Inspection procedures have been taken into consideration in accordance with the law and these procedures will be put into effect in the next few days in the provinces to control how the elections are conducted. The minister noted: The inspectors of these procedures will prevent anyone from committing offenses and will deal with offenders in accordance with the law. In this respect, the necessary coordination has been arranged with the Supreme Judicial Council.

Regarding the maintainance of border security, Mr Mohtashemi stated: Building border roads, setting up bases and watchtowers, and marking the border are particularly important, and a project has been devised to achieve these objectives which were ratified by the Majlis. In connection with the geographical division of the country, he said: Two thousand governorates at the village level will be established throughout the country. The project for the establishment of these governorates at village and district levels has been completed in 192 districts. This has also been ratified by the Majlis.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3101

LD031600 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3, IRNA—Iranian naval units searched 12 cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday, but allowed them to continue voyage since no Iraq-bound cargo was found aboard, the 3101st Joint Staff Communique said here today.

The communique added that on the northwestern fronts an Iraqi helicopter which attempted to approach Iranian positions Tuesday, was shot by anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim combatants and crashed inside Iraq.

Artillery fire of the Muslim forces on Iraqi positions, strongholds and supply routes throughout war fronts Tuesday destroyed parts of enemy positions and inflicted some casualties on them.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces set afire four Iraqi bunkers and killed or wounded several enemy soldiers in parts of the western and southern fronts, Tuesday.

The Muslim combatants also silenced fire of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Sumar and Nahr 'Anbar, while exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire continued in the northwestern and southern fronts, raging more heavily in Faqqeh operational region. concluded the communique.

Kurdish Operations in Irbil

LD031912 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in two separate penetration operations in Shaqlawah town in Irbil Province, northern Iraq this week, captured five Ba'thist soldiers and destroyed several government buildings.

A Ramadan Headquarters report, announcing the above, said on Wednesday that KDP Peshmergas also set ablaze three vehicles and seized intact various weapons and three vehicles in the operations.

Ramadan Headquarters is the guerrilla warfare center of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

'Sources' Allege Coup Attempt in Guards Corps

TA031701 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Informed sources in Tehran have revealed that a bloody coup took place in the Guards Corps about 2 months ago and that a large number of Guards, led by someone called Bizhan Sa'eb, were arrested. According to this report, the regime immediately executed an undetermined number of the detained Guards.

Bizhan Sa'eb, the leader of this group, who bears the pseudonym [name indistinct], was a member of Khomeyni's guard unit in Jamaran for a long time and enjoyed the full confidence of Ahmad Khomeyni.

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez, Noorani Talks Continue

BK031158 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The UN envoy on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, held another round of talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in Islamabad today. The talks centered on Mr Cordovez' recent discussions with the representatives of the Kabul regime. The UN envoy is currently on a diplomatic mission to the area to clear the way to bring about meeting of minds on crucial issues among the parties concerned before the next round of proximity talks in Geneva.

Cordovez Interviewed on Mission

BK310947 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 23: The UN special envoy on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez has said in order to make the future of Afghanistan different from today, the Afghans have to take a number of post settlement steps that would include the setting up of a government which represents a wide segment of Afghan society and identifies the need for reconstruction. Expressing these views in an exclusive interview with PTV [Pakistan Television Corporation] in Islamabad on Friday [22 January] Diego Cordovez said the Afghans have also to decide about the question of neutrality of their country.

Following is the text of the interview as provided by Pakistan television.

Q: What developments have taken place since March last year that makes you so optimistic?

A: Well I am not optimistic. I am hopeful, which is quite different you know. Since March I have a feeling that those who are participating in the negotiations started to believe that an agreement was possible and people started to think about the conclusion of the agreements, which is very sensitive aspect of the negotiations. Now as you know after the March round the Soviet Union took the position that the conclusions of the agreement, certainly agreement on the time frame for the withdrawal of troops, would depend on the achievement of the coalition government and in discussions with the Soviet I insisted that the Afghan people would only believe that an agreement was to take place if the time frame for the withdrawal of troops was clearly identified in the document. So I insisted that linkage that was beginning to be established should not be there. Around the month of October last year I was given to understand that they would not insist on that linkage and as of that moment we started to discuss with all concerned the conclusion of the agreement on that basis. On that basis the time frame would be now included in the document and we would work out the formalities for signatures and so on. Subsequently, as you know after the summit in Washington, where Mr. Gorbachev made a very important statement that the political decision had been taken to withdraw the troops from Afghanistan, I went to Washington and I started to prepare for the next round which I hope will take place in February. My visit to the Soviet Union only reaffirmed the position of the Soviet Government in connection with the time frame. They were very categorical as I have said; they have also said that they were eloquent in their expression of intention to conclude the documents. I am now here and I have also to go to Kabul to basically prepare for the next round. Thus negotiations have reached very sensitive

stage and it is of course important that they would be well prepared. We are discussing all aspects which are outstanding. We are discussing formalities which will have to be fulfilled and I would like to go to Geneva having a clear understanding with my interlocutors as to the approach that is going to be used for the specific agreement that have to be reached at that point to conclude a settlement.

Q: From the press reports the Soviet leadership is not prepared to link this condition from time frame from the coalition government in Kabul. Did you get any commitment?

A: Absolutely, this is as I said the first indication that the linkage would not be there during conversation with Soviet representative in New York around the month of October and that was then reaffirmed it was communicated to the United States which is other designate, other guarantee to this agreement, and it was subsequently underlined repeatedly during my discussion in Moscow.

Q: Now what is the hurdle to clinch the agreement when they are?

A: Well and now we have simply clinch it as I said we have to convene a round of talks which I hope will be prepared and I am very much hopeful that we will be able to conclude the four instruments which are being negotiated and let me say that then I very much expect that the Afghans themselves will participate fully in this peace process. These negotiations are only preparing the basis on which the Afghans themselves have to participate in bringing peace to Afghanistan. They can play a very important role in the implementation of the settlement and certainly after they have an historic responsibility in this respect. But I am absolutely convinced that they will exercise the responsibility.

Q: You are talking about the quantum of troops to be withdrawn from Afghanistan. Does it mean you have agreement on the frame?

A: No. This is exactly we have to finalise. That is why I always said that Afghans are right in insisting that these intentions be transformed in the specific agreement and that is we will be doing for the next round of talks, and that is exactly that what I am preparing.

Q: Mr. Cordovez, Geneva process envisages withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan. In your discussions did the mention of Soviet advisors, who are there also came, will they be part of the troops to be withdrawn?

A: As you know I cannot go into any of the details of this negotiations. I have repeatedly said I am the custodian of the confidentiality of these negotiations. But the Government of Pakistan has approached these negotiations in a very very serious manner..

The Government of Pakistan from the beginning has identified the withdrawal of troops as the key issue for them in these negotiations. Now as you know, these negotiations have been conducted in an atmosphere of enormous distrust. We have to recognise that and perhaps that is one of the reasons they have been so long. But at the same time, this is also important that the people should realise because there was such a distrust people were particularly cautious and I say so particularly though. The Government of Pakistan has made absolutely sure that the provisions concerning withdrawal will ensure that all the Soviet troops now in Afghanistan will be withdrawn within a specific period of time which is still to be formalised in the agreement. I can assure you that no effort has been spared to ensure that a text concerning the withdrawal makes it absolutely sure, certain that all Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan within a specific period of time. Now as you know these agreements also provide for a monitoring of the implementation of these agreements.

I have to express my admiration to the Government of Pakistan in this respect because I am a lawyer and I have seen many agreements and you should be in this agreement people worked out provisions for implementation without anticipating the possible problems that can arise in the implementation.

In this particular case the Government of Pakistan for instance has insisted on the continuing presence of the United Nations during the implementation process. There will be monitoring mechanism with senior military personnel which will ensure that all the obligations of these agreements are being strictly fulfilled and in good faith.

It has been anticipated for instance that there might be violation of the agreement. We are all human beings and we all know sometimes because instructions are not given to the people, there are violations of an agreement. Well this agreement has established mechanism to establish to ascertain that such violation occur to correct them and to establish specific measures to rectify the agreement so that new violations do not take place.

Q: There are apprehensions in some quarters that pretext may be used to retain element of Soviet elite forces under the garb of advisors along with weapons.

A: As I said before I cannot go into specific provisions. There are many apprehensions that as I said also I have feelings that in these very long negotiations we have anticipated all the possible problems and I also have the feeling that because a political settlement is essentially an impression of political will, those who are undertaking these obligations, are going to fulfil their obligations. These agreements are signed essentially to bring peace to Afghanistan. This is the stated purpose of the agreement. The two sides are committed to that and what is important in my view is that the Afghans should now realise that they have to organise themselves so that the future

of their country is different. I have the feeling that they have to set up the government which represents widely all segments of Afghan society. I have the feeling that there are number of steps that the Afghans themselves should have taken in post settlement period. There are very important aspects which have been, which have not so far been mentioned. I have the feeling for instance, that one thing that the Afghans have to consider very seriously now is whether Afghanistan, given its geographical location, given what has happened is very tragic; they should consider for instance whether they should not proclaim Afghanistan, the neutrality of Afghanistan. Afghanistan should become a neutral state. But this is for the Afghans to decide. As an observer, a concerned observer, who has followed the situation very closely, I believe this is something would benefit the Afghans. I have the feelings that they have to identify the needs for reconstructions and I have the feeling that the international community has the obligation to launch a massive programme of economic and social assistance, of development assistance to Afghanistan. And certainly they have to take steps which are necessary to return to a normal process of government. They have to organise whatever they consider necessary on this stage. There are traditions of doing this. They have their own traditions. There is a possibility of holding elections, referendum, people speak about a number of possibilities. There is a consensus that this should be left to the Afghans that there are certain things that cannot be imposed from outside. I could get a statement signed tomorrow by Government of Pakistan, by the Government of Soviet Union, by the Government of the United States, by everybody that they consider that the form of government that is future government is entirely for the Afghans themselves to decide. About so I am encouraged by that because from time to time you see attempts to interfere in this which consider is the proper exercise of the right of self determination which belongs to the Afghans. This is one of the stated objectives of the agreement so let us leave it to them to decide. I hope they would realise that we are reaching the end of this diplomatic stage. I know they did not believe and still do not believe that an agreement is possible. That is why I insist that all these declarations of intentions be formalised in the agreements in the next round.

I am satisfied with the way preparations have so far been made for the next round, but people are cautious.

Deputy Speaker of Iran's Majlis Views Ties

BK011631 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the deputy speaker of the Iranian parliament, has said that there are extremely cordial relations between Iran and Pakistan, that trade relations between the two countries are satisfactory, and that these relations will improve with the passage of time. In a news conference in Lahore this afternoon, he asserted that the objective of the foreign policy of his country is to maintain good relations with all nations, except some nations such as Israel.

Holds News Conference

LD022134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Mohammad Yazdi, deputy speaker of the Majlis, who is visiting Pakistan to participate in the anniversary of the founding of Punjab Province's parliament, responded to various questions from reporters at a press conference yesterday. Commenting on the imposed war, Mr Yazdi referred to the aggression committed by the Iraqi regime against our country's territory and the support given by the superpowers and other anti-Islamic governments to this aggression, particularly the United States. He stated: We shall continue our resistance and we shall not accept any solution to end the war unless the Iraqi regime is named as the aggressor and punished as such.

Replying to another question, the deputy speaker of the Majlis recounted the effects of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the world. He added: The most important effect of this revolution has been that the Iranian people have achieved sovereignty and independence and succeeded in breaking the superpower myth, thus increasing the heroism of the world's Muslims and assisting the resistance of the revolutionary Muslims of Afghanistan and the Islamic revolt in the occupied Palestine lands and the Gaza Strip.

Responding to a question about the Mecca tragedy, Mr Yazdi said: We have no doubt that the tragic events took place on the instructions of world arrogance, notably the United States, and were aimed at preventing the spread of Islam's influence in the world. He affirmed: We shall participate in the hajj ceremonies next year [year begins 21 March 1988] and we shall carry out our religious duties.

Sri Lanka

Indian President Sends Independence Day Message

BK031321 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1248 GMT 3 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item: "Message from the President of India Shri R. Venkataraman, to the President of Sri Lanka Issued on the Occasion of Sri Lanka's Independence Day"]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 3 (LANKA PUWATH)—"On the occasion of the Independence Day of Sri Lanka, I have great pleasure in conveying to your excellency our warmest felicitations and good wishes," states Indian President R. Venkataraman in a message to President J. R. Jayewardene on the occasion of Sri Lankan Independence Day (4th February 1988).

The Indian president further states "I am confident that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to grow in the years to come. Kindly accept, excellency, my best wishes for the continued progress and well-being of the people of Sri Lanka and for your good health and happiness."

Gandhi Sends Message

BK031325 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1253 GMT 3 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item: "Message From the Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi to President Jayewardene on the Occasion of Sri Lankan Independence Day"]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 3 (LANKA PUWATH)—"On my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of India, I have great pleasure in extending to you our warm greetings and sincerest good wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of Sri Lanka," states Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a message to President J. R. Jayewardene on the occasion of Sri Lankan Independence Day (4th February 1988).

The Indian Prime Minister further states "The bonds of friendship between our two countries, nurtured over the centuries, have been further strengthened by your recent visit to India. We must continue to consolidate these relations so as to preserve peace and stability in our region. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the well-being of the people of Sri Lanka."

Delhi Notes Attaches' Visit to Jaffna Peninsula

BK011602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the military attaches belonging to the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, Pakistan, and Indonesia today visited some areas in the Jaffna Peninsula. The attaches based in Colombo flew in a special aircraft to Palaly this morning. The general officer commanding in chief, Major General Sirdeshpande, briefed them at the Palaly airport on the reconstructive and relief operations undertaken by the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] in the peninsula. He also told them that the basic task of the peacekeeping force is now meeting the common man and also to convince the LTTE that violence will not help in arriving at any solution.

Our correspondent Sudarshanam, reporting from Jaffna, says the military attaches were also briefed by the Sri Lankan Army spokesman on the prevailing situation in the island. The spokesman said that good rapport exists between India and Sri Lanka to strengthen the peace agreement. Later, the military attaches visited several parts of the Jaffna town and Kakesanthurai.

There has been a general welcome in Trincomalee to the announcement of President Jayewardene that provincial elections will be held in Sri Lanka by April this year. The AIR correspondent reports from Trincomalee that people from all walks of life have expressed the opinion that elections would be the next logical step toward solving the ethnic problem in the North and Eastern Provinces. Our correspondent adds that an estimated 80,000 refugees are yet to be resettled.

At least 12 Sri Lankan soldiers were injured when their vehicle ran over a land mine near Trincomalee this morning. The incident occurred at Monkey Bridge on Kakalai road while the soldiers were on their way to attend the funeral of one of the officers who was killed in a landmine explosion on Saturday.

LTTE May Discuss Interim Administration

BK031359 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 23 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The LTTE's Eastern Province commander, who met the citizens' committee of Velvettiturai yesterday, is reported to have stated that his group is prepared to talk about establishing an interim administration.

"We have not discussed the matter with the Indian or Sri Lankan governments, but we are prepared to deal with National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali," Mahattaya is reported to have said.

Mahattaya had said Mr Athulathmudali was the only person in the Lankan government who understood the true position, and as such the LTTE was prepared to meet him.

Clashes Between Separatists, IPKF Continue

'Terrorism Roundup' 28 Jan

BK291031 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0845 GMT 29 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item: "Terrorism Roundup"]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 29 (LANKA PUWATH)—Two LTTE terrorists were killed and seven captured by Indian troops during search operations in Sri Lanka's north and east during the past 24 hours, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

LTTE terrorists gunned down two former Muslim home guards at Gemunupura, Trincomalee yesterday.

In the Batticaloa District at Thalankuda Indian troops ambushed and killed a LTTE hardcore terrorist and recovered a hand grenade.

During search operations in Jaffna they recovered to landmines at Novali.

In the Jaffna town, a LTTE terrorist was captured.

Indian troops recovered one 9mm carbine, and a magazine with 29 rounds of 9mm ammunition.

At Vadamarachichi six LTTE terrorists were apprehended and a 12-bore shotgun with five cartridges recovered.

Twenty-eight rounds of 5.56 ammunition was seized at Chankanai.

Two claymore mines, four grenades, and one hundred metres of electrial wire were detected at [placename indistinct].

At Sandilipay, LTTE terrorists hurled three grenades at Indian troops. The grenades did not explode as the pins were intact.

Another LTTE terrorist was killed, three grenades and 90 rounds of 9mm ammunition seized at Valdukoddai.

A gang of LTTE terrorists kiled two former home guards (Muslims) at Gemunupura, Trincomalee. The same gang later attacked the security forces post at Gemunupura with rocket propelled grenades, mortars and small arms. Security forces returned fire and the terrorists withdrew. There were no casualties among troops.

41 LTTE Men Surrender 29 Jan

BK301257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] In the Jaffna Peninsula, 41 LTTE activists surrendered to the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Vadamarachchi area last night. Another 38 LTTE men were apprehended by PKF in the area. Our correspondent, Sudarshanam, reports from Jaffna that PKF has sealed all escape routes to the LTTE from Vadamarachchi area. Intensive disarming operations are continuing all over the Jaffna Peninsula.

2 Soldiers Killed

BK310754 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0720 GMT 31 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 31 (LANKA PUWATH)—Two Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and two others wounded this morning when their vehicle ran into an LTTE terrorist landmine at Uyalankulam, Mannar, northwest Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The incident occurred at [word indistinct] hours (local time) today when they were on a route clearing mission.

Yesterday morning a Sri Lanka Army lieutenant was killed and three soldiers wounded when their vehicle hit LTTE landmine along the Thiriyaya-Gomarankadawela road, Trincomalee, eastern Sri Lanka.

In a firefight which followed yesterday's blast, a large number of terrorist casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna yesterday, Indian troops captured one .30 heavy machine gun, four AK-47 rifles, two M-16 rifles, one G-3 rifle and thirty kilograms of explosives. They also killed an LTTE terrorist during this raid, on the LTTE ammunition dump.

Indian troops also seized a large quantity of ammunution of various descriptions during yesterday's raids in Jaffna.

6 LTTE, 2 Soldiers Die

BK311248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The fifth batch of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived in Talaimannar from Rameswaram this afternoon. The 523 refugees were provided with cash assistance of 2,000 rupees per family immediately on arrival. Later, they also received rations, medicine, and other essential items. The refugees will be sent to their respective villages. The PKF is providing necessary security and other facilities.

Meanwhile, news agency reports from Colombo say two Sri Lankan army personnel and six LTTE men were killed in a landmine blast and exchange of fire in the northern Mannar District today. The Sri Lankan soldiers were killed when their truck blew up in the mine blast. They were clearing mines ahead of a PKF convoy. In the exchange of fire with the PKF, six LTTE men were killed.

LTTE Call For More Explosives

BK011123 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1115 GMT 1 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 01 (LANKA PUWATH)—Clandestine terrorist radio messages calling urgently for supplies of explosives from LTTE area commanders in eastern Sri Lanka from LTTE cadres in Tamil Nadu have been intercepted by Sri Lankan authorities official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said that this indicated an attempt by the LTTE terrorists to launch a wave of landmine explosions in eastern Sri Lanka. Countermeasures are being taken and vigilance has been heightened by the police, customs and the forces.

Official sources said that a few days ago a truckload of explosives about to be smuggled across the Palk Straits was seized and two Sri Lankan terrorists killed when they tried to escape.

543 More Refugees Return From Tamil Nadu
BK011135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Five hundred and forty-three refugees in Tamil Nadu returned to Sri Lanka last evening. Of this number, 357 are adults.

LANKA PUWATH quoted the senior assistant secretary of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Tilak Chandrasekhara, as saying that this was the fifth batch of Sri Lankan refugees returned to Sri Lanka since last December. The total number of returnees since January 1986 is more than 15,500.